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Germans rates decision today

Bundesbank holds key to pound's fate

BY COLIN NARBROUGH AND ROBIN OAKLEY

RENEWED government attempts to talk up the sagging pound failed to convince the City as speculation intensified that today the Bundesbank will tighten Germany's monetary reins, forcing Britain to follow suit.

With the Bundesbank's policy-making council widely expected to raise one of its key lending rates — the discount rate — from its present record level of 8 per cent, investors continued to flee from the pound and other European currencies to the safe haven of the mark.

Repeated assurances from John Major and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, that there will be no devaluation of the pound within the European exchange-rate mechanism, left the currency markets unconvinced that sterling would be immune from a wider realignment against the mark. This is regarded as inevitable in the event either of the Bundesbank taking too tough a

stance, or further setbacks for the Maastricht treaty.

In his traditional end-of-term letter to Tory MPs, who leave Westminster today for three months of exposure to constituency complaints about the depth of the recession, Mr Lamont held out no prospect of an early cut in interest rates.

He warned his colleagues that they must look to the medium term, saying: "We must not throw away long-term security for the illusory benefits of a quick fix." The government, he said, won the election because of the public's belief in John Major, the Tory commitment to low taxes and the fact that the government did not "play politics" by making unsustainable cuts in interest rates before April 9.

Mr Lamont emphasised the need for a rigorous public spending round, arguing that, if the Treasury failed to cut public spending as inflation was curbed, low taxation aims would be at risk. His letter pointed out that, since

Britain joined the ERM, inflation had been cut from 10.9 per cent to 3.9 per cent while interest rates had been trimmed nine times.

Howard Davies, the new director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday threw his weight behind opinion in favour of an ERM realignment to loosen the link between British and German interest rates.

In an interview on BBC Radio's *Today* programme, he said the CBI considers British interest rates are higher than necessary to make progress towards inflation targets. He called on the government not to continue giving the impression of "blindly following a particular relationship between our interest rates and German interest rates, which is not justified by the (economic) fundamentals", otherwise the British economy would stay in "this corrugated bumping-along-the-bottom position".

Currency market analysts were unimpressed by ministers' verbal messaging of the pound. Jim O'Neill, head of research at Swiss Bank Corporation, said the markets "certainly don't believe Mr Major or Mr Lamont". Instead of helping the pound, their comments focused undue attention on sterling when there were currency problems in Italy, Spain and other ERM countries. "The currency market is looking for safety in marks and the problems of the ERM will not go away," Mr O'Neill said.

Avishai Persaud, currency economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, described the government's stance as "negative". Given the strength of speculation against the pound, the flows of funds would easily outweigh any verbal intervention. Mr Persaud noted that while Whitehall appeared agitated, the Bank of England was keeping cool and did not appear to have intervened to prop up the pound.

At the official London market close at 4pm, the pound stood at DM2.8453, having been well above DM2.8500 during the morning. At its low point in late afternoon, the currency dropped to DM2.8425, which left it little more than a penny above the level at which Bank of England support would be required under ERM rules.

The lira was under intense pressure yesterday, after an announcement that the Bundesbank will hold a press conference after today's council session. The Italian currency dropped sharply, forcing the Bank of Italy to sell marks for lira. The dollar also retreated, shedding about a penny in late trading in Europe.

The mark has firmed for the past week on market expectations of tighter German credit policy designed to slow excessive growth in the money supply. Today's session of the Bundesbank council will review the money supply targets in light of growth rates almost double the target range of between 3.5 per cent

Continued on page 18, col 5

Leading article and Letters, page 15
Pound hurt, page 19



Catching them young: Bill Clinton, who was last night heading for formal nomination as the Democratic presidential candidate, takes a break from jogging through Central Park, New York, for a spot of traditional electioneering with six-month-old Teddy Dresner. Mario Cuomo, governor of New York, was due to nominate Mr Clinton at the Democratic convention in Madison Square Garden after a primary season that saw the candidate emerge at the head of the most united Democratic party since 1976.

Clinton poised, page 12
King of compromise, page 14

Operation on Pope successful

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Pope was in a satisfactory condition in hospital last night after a benign tumour "like a big orange" was cut out of his intestines during an operation that lasted almost four hours.

The Vatican said he was expected to remain at the Gemelli hospital for about ten days after the surgery, which was carried out by a team led by Professor Francesco Cruciani who operated on him twice in 1981 after an assassination attempt.

A joint statement by the Vatican and the hospital said: "The operation was radical and curative because the lesion was of a benign nature." The Pope's gall bladder also was removed.

Professor Corrado Manni, the anaesthetist, said surgeons removed from the Pope's intestine a rather bulky mass, like a big orange ("massa piuttosto voluminosa, come una grossa arancia"). A second operation was decided against and the Pope responded to surgery "like a young man of 20". The Pope woke up "a little dazed" in the underground operating theatre.

Continued on page 18, col 1

Mother murdered on walk with son

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A YOUNG mother was ambushed and killed yesterday as she walked through a London common with her two-year-old son and dog. The little boy, who was also beaten around the head, was found clinging speechless to the body of his mother.

The identity of the woman, who was killed in a copse on Wimbledon Common at about 9.30 am, is expected to be released today. A post mortem examination last night showed that she had suffered multiple stab wounds and had her throat cut. Police believe the motive was a sex attack and tests were being carried out to discover if she had been raped. Clothing had been removed from her lower body.

Det Chief Inspector Mike Wickerson, head of CID in the Wimbledon area, described the attack as absolutely horrendous, and Det Supt John Bassett, who is in charge of the investigation, said it had been frenzied.

He said the boy had been viciously beaten and was in deep shock. He had been taken to hospital and was still not able to talk. Mr Bassett advised women using the common, which is popular with dog walkers and stroll-

ers, to be sensible about walking alone in secluded areas. The victim, who was in her early twenties, had been attacked as she walked down a path through oak trees and bushes a few minutes after parking her Volvo car nearby. The family's black mongrel dog was off its lead when the mother was suddenly dragged from the path. The killer may have seen her begin her walk and trailed her, or seen her earlier and lain in wait.

He chose a spot almost completely out of sight from open ground, and another path beyond the trees which is often used by walkers. The woman was pulled about five yards from the muddy path under bushes and branches and attacked with a knife. The murderer beat her son with his fists before fleeing. Police were called after the body was found by another walker half an hour later and the entire 1,100-acre common was sealed off by police. After hours of searching, officers admitted that the murderer had escaped, but the murder scene remained cordoned off as teams of officers looked for clues.

Silent child, page 3

Bosnian peace falls to lowest bidder

Christie's was the unusual venue for the latest Yugoslavia peace talks, reports Eve-Anne Prentice

The fine art of diplomacy went on display at Christie's yesterday when Lord Carrington tried to sell peace to the fighting factions of Bosnia.

If Radovan Karadzic, the chief warlord of Bosnia's Serbs, felt disoriented among Christie's treasures, he may have drawn some comfort from a collection of rifles and shotguns being auctioned during yesterday's peace talks. He was also unimpressed when a bomb scare in the Haymarket nearby snarled traffic around the auction house.

Lord Carrington held separate talks at Christie's, of which he is chairman, with Mr Karadzic, Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, and Mate Boban, the Croat leader in the former Yugoslav republic. It was the latest and perhaps gloomiest of Lord Carrington's attempts to bring about agreement under the auspices of the European Community peace conference.

The plan had been for the opposing sides to meet face to face at a hotel later, in a session chaired by Jose Cutileiro, the Portuguese diplomat. But the chances of that faded when Mr Silajdzic refused to meet Mr Karadzic, declaring: "I am not prepared to sit with child killers. Never."

Mr Karadzic, for his part, emerged from his talks with Lord Carrington to make the latest of many futile offers of a unilateral ceasefire. He added that he had also agreed to land corridors being opened up to bring aid to besieged civilians in Bosnia, before smiling broadly and gliding away in a Volvo.

Minutes later, the Bosnian foreign minister arrived. Mr Silajdzic's mood of deep pessimism about the chances of success in the talks cannot have been lessened by his mode of transport — a black cab.

Mr Silajdzic emerged from his meeting an angry man. "We are being asked to talk at gunpoint. We ask for the killing to be stopped, the de-

Continued on page 18, col 3

Stadium shelled, page 13
Diary, page 14

TODAY IN THE TIMES

TRAVEL WITH THE MASTER



Seve Ballesteros, winner of three Opens, gives his hole-by-hole guide to Muirfield
Page 28

GET A JOB ON THE WAY



Passport to France meets people on the fast track and the slow through Europe
Life & Times
Pages 1 and 4

STEP BACK TO SEE THE BEST



Catherine Deneuve stars in *Belle de Jour*, for Geoff Brown a film of pure pleasure, which is 25 years old
Life & Times
Page 3



SALE

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Wasting paper on the nine-dustbin household

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

JUST when you thought the European Community mandarins were at bay they're taking an interest in the rubbish.

If Brussels has its way, every household will have to keep nine dustbins at the door so that different grades of rubbish can be separated at source for recycling. And that takes no account of the mass of unwanted Community paperwork.

The basic idea — unveiled yesterday by Karel van Miert, the EC's new environment commissioner — is radical but laudable enough. He wants member states to cut the amount of consumer packaging they dump by 90 per cent. But carrying out the plan would mean keeping a gallery of bins

to house different categories of refuse. As a result, it seems unlikely that dustmen will settle for less than £100, or maybe 150 Ecus, when they ring the doorbell for a Christmas box.

Mr van Miert's bright green vision confirms that Brussels' taste for snappy environmental gestures has not vanished with Carlo Ripa di Meana, his colourful predecessor, who left last month to join the new Italian government.

Mr van Miert described the 50 million tons of packaging waste dumped annually by the Community's 344 million consumers as a "modern scourge". If approved, his legally-binding proposals will mean that in ten years' time EC countries will recycle, or use for energy, 90 per cent of this waste mountain.

Asked why Brussels would not at-

tack the root of the problem, the trend to over-packaging, Mr van Miert said: "I don't think we can ever go back to the days where everything just came wrapped in newspaper, like fish and chips."

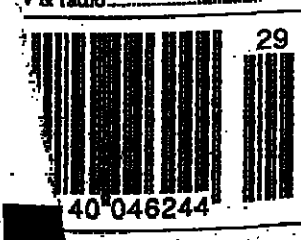
The Belgian commissioner said it would be up to member states how they boosted recycling. His figures showed Britain to be less thorough at recycling than many of its EC partners. We recycle 28 per cent of our glass, at the low end of a scale that ranges from the Dutch, who recycle 70 per cent, to the Greeks, who manage just 22 per cent. No figures for paper recycling were available.

A new EC labelling scheme will tell consumers what type of packaging they are buying and how to dump it. Of the 90 per cent of packaging to be collected, 60 per cent will be recycled

and 40 per cent incinerated to produce electricity.

The initiative has further inflamed Denmark, which Mr van Miert said would have to come up with methods of recycling aluminium. The Danes ban aluminium drinks cans because they have an efficient bottle recycling programme, and see no reason why aluminium should start processing aluminium. But Brussels says Denmark must open its doors to beer cans because of the internal market. "If everybody imposes their own bans the market will be fragmented," Mr van Miert said. "You need to set up a system that covers free movement." Presumably, that means even of rubbish. We may soon be frisked for plastic wrapping by customs. The plans will be examined by EC environment ministers in December.

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CARS SW 1X

Taylor urges judges to move with the times

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JUDGES should "move with the times", come out of "purdah" and end their isolation from the media and the rest of the criminal justice system if public confidence is to be restored, Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, said last night.

Recent miscarriages of justice had highlighted the perception of judges as "stuffy and remote". That was increasingly unacceptable. "I believe we have been over-protective and over-cautious and the time has come to adjust our approach to meet the expectations of modern society," Lord Taylor, who took up office in April, said. "The judiciary does not need to put itself into purdah by refusing ever to speak out of court about its work and about legal issues," he told judges, including Lord MacKay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, at the annual Lord Mayor's dinner at Guildhall. "Silence is attributed to arrogance, complacency or inability to answer criticisms."

Lord Taylor, whose speech marked a formal and radical departure from the policy of Lord Lane, his predecessor, also emphasised the growing workload in the criminal courts and spoke of a "growing crisis" in the Court of

Appeal criminal division, where the number of appeals against conviction was up 26 per cent on last year. Against the background of recent miscarriages of justice, he called on judges to be more vigilant, however strong the evidence appeared in a case, and to leave issues of fact to juries. Judges, he added, should also be more considerate and sensitive in their treatment of jurors, witnesses, litigants and relatives.

Judicial independence was of "fundamental importance", and Lord Taylor pledged himself to maintain it. The concept was, however, "calculated to raise the eyebrows, if not the hackles, of non-lawyers and especially journalists". They regarded it as a "cant phrase designed to justify judicial remoteness and favoured status," he said. "They say, for independence, read isolation and privilege."

Judges should remain independent from any influence or pressure from the executive, from parties to litigation, or from lobbying. They must use their own judgment and discretion. But the judiciary did not need to "put itself into purdah" by refusing ever to speak on its work and legal issues. Lord Taylor spelled out how judges should come out of their perceived isolation. Judicial independence would not be endangered if judges exchanged views with others in the justice system.

Private discussions on policy with chief constables would "clearly be unacceptable", but for a judge to chair a committee on the whole range of court services in his area would not damage his independence, and "much good may come from such co-operation". Judges' treatment of jurors, witnesses, litigants and their relatives should "also be much more considerate and sensitive than I fear it often is", Lord Taylor added. For that reason he had agreed to Lord Justice Farquharson chairing the new Criminal Justice Consultative Council.

On miscarriages of justice, Lord Taylor told judges needed, however strong the evidence appeared and from whatever source, "to be seen to leave issues of fact fairly to the jury". He added: "I hope that one benefit from these traumatic recent cases will be a greater vigilance both by trial judges and the Court of Appeal, recognising that appearances may sometimes belie the truth."

Lord Taylor further emphasised the priority of reducing the backlogs for appeals. In cases where the person was not in custody, the waiting time was up to a year and a half and in custody appeals it was several months. Waiting time for judicial review cases was now 14 months and heading towards 19 months by next January.

Parcelforce to be privatised

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

THE POST Office's parcel delivery business Parcelforce is to be privatised after losing more than £150 million in the past two years.

The government is to insist on the maintenance of a universal parcel service at a uniform and affordable price, thus protecting rural services, but this seems likely to be carried out by the Royal Mail, Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, signalled. Parcelforce, with some 13,500 employees, will be offered for sale in the rapidly growing parcel delivery market.

It needs significant investment to succeed and the government has decided that this should be funded by the private sector. Management and staff will be given financial help by the Post Office to put together their own bid for the business if they wish, and such a bid is expected. The Post Office was "very pleased" with the offer.

Parcelforce, once part of the Royal Mail, now enjoys only 2 per cent of the lucrative "next day" market. However, it has 34 per cent of the "later than next day" market, and there is likely to be keen interest from other distribution companies. Although Parcelforce had £24 million in losses in 1991-2, in the second half it posted a profit. Labour MPs alleged it would be the prelude to moves by Mr Heseltine to sell off other parts of the Post Office, including the Royal Mail.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, the Post Office chairman, said: "The PO board supports the Government's view that privatisation will provide the commercial freedom and access to capital that Parcelforce needs."

CORRECTION

A news agency report (July 11) incorrectly stated that the money raised by Terry Waite's appeal for Y Care International would be shared with Amnesty International. In fact all the money from the appeal will go to Y Care.



Honoured: Bernard Weatherill, Commons Speaker from 1983 until retiring after the April general election, after his introduction to the Lords yesterday as Baron Weatherill, of North East Croydon

Army bases open door to Soviet republics' scrutiny

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ARMY barracks and air bases are to be subject to inspection from the end of this week by teams of military experts from the former Soviet republics and Warsaw Pact nations, Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, announced in the Commons yesterday.

The inspections will be carried out under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, which has now been ratified by 27 of the 29 signatories to the agreement. Belarus and Armenia, which

hope to ratify it by October, have agreed that the treaty can be enforced on a provisional arrangement from midnight tomorrow.

The first inspections could take place on Saturday. Britain has declared 235 military locations for possible inspection under the CFE treaty. Defence companies, such as British Aerospace and Vickers Defence Systems, have also been warned to be ready for possible challenge inspections.

The treaty covers five cate-

gories of weapon systems, tanks, heavy artillery, armoured combat vehicles, combat helicopters and combat aircraft. Any sites, known under the treaty as objects of verification, or OOVs, that have stocks of such equipment will be liable to a maximum of 30 inspections a year. British forces in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar also come under the treaty and will be subject to 17 inspections a year, officials said yesterday.

Britain's inspecting teams from the joint arms control implementation group, based at RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire, are also now geared up to visit the former Soviet Union to check on holdings of CFE-limited equipment.

Officials from the Scampton team said yesterday that all the countries they had visited in practice inspections had co-operated and that they did not foresee difficulties, in spite of the break-up of the Soviet Union and the complex distribution of tanks and other equipment among its republics.

Britain will have six points of entry for visiting inspection teams: Scampton; Brize Norton, Oxfordshire; Lyneham, Wiltshire; Shawbury, Shropshire; Belfast and Edinburgh. Lyneham will also be the entry point for Gibraltar.

British inspectors will not be able to examine Russian tank and artillery stocks in the Baltic states, since Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia are not CFE signatories, although the equipment stationed in these three countries are covered by the treaty.

The poor are getting poorer

BY JILL SHERMAN AND
JEREMY LAURANCE

REAL incomes of the poorest tenth of the population fell by 6 per cent during the past decade while average incomes rose 30 per cent, according to a government report published yesterday.

The top half of the population grew richer, but those in the bottom half had their share of the total national income, after housing costs, fall 15 per cent — from 32 per cent to 27 per cent.

Michael Meacher, Labour's social security spokesman, said that the new figures exposed the widening gap between the rich and the poor and "exploded the Tories' trickle-down myth". The government blamed the dwindling income among the country's poorest on an increase in unemployment, a heavy weighting of self-employed people who said they earned nothing, and unaffordable mortgages.

The report, *Households Below Average Income 1979-1989*, shows that the real incomes of the three million people in the poorest tenth of the population rose by 2 per cent before housing costs were taken into account, but fell by 6 per cent once these costs were considered. Average incomes rose by 28 per cent, or 30 per cent once housing costs had been taken into account.

Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, said that the 30 per cent average increase in real incomes showed the success of the government's economic policies in increasing prosperity for the population as a whole.

Rail ticket scheme to change track

Negotiations are under way to extend InterRail, the discounted international rail ticket used by generations of students to travel around Europe, to the Baltic states and the Commonwealth of Independent States, it was disclosed yesterday. Tens of thousands of InterRail users could, however, face additional charges to travel in France, Italy, Spain and Portugal during July and August because national rail organisations want to ration student rail tickets to reduce overcrowding during the peak holiday season.

The standard InterRail ticket provides those under 26 with a month's unlimited rail travel in 24 European countries for £180. In addition, an InterRail ticket for those over 26, introduced last year, provides unlimited travel in 23 countries for £180 for 15 days and £260 for a month. Ross Furby, the managing director of British Rail International, said: "InterRail is very much alive. But it will have to be modified and adapted to meet changing circumstances."

Leading article, page 15
Life & Times, page 1

IRA murder charge

Donna Maguire, an Irish woman, has been charged with murder and attempted murder in Germany during alleged IRA attacks. The charges are connected to the murder of Major Michael Dillon-Lee in Dortmund in June 1990 and the bombing of a British barracks in Hanover the previous month. Ms Maguire, 25, was extradited last October from Holland, where she and three other Irish people were cleared because of lack of evidence of involvement in the murder by the IRA of two Australian tourists in the southern Dutch town of Roermond in 1990.

Manager's death fall

A 43-year-old bank manager fell to his death from a seventh-floor office window in May while measuring up a set of venetian blinds, an inquest at the City Coroner's Court was told yesterday. No one witnessed the accident but it is thought that Terence McDowell, of Walton on the Naze, Essex, overbalanced while standing on a window ledge between the inner and outer panes of double glazing. Mr McDowell, a manager at the Bank of Montreal, had gone to a vacant office to measure the blinds, which he thought could be used in an office on the second floor. His secretary, Terri Brewer, told the hearing that Mr McDowell was "his normal laughing and joking self" when he left the office, taking a tape measure and mobile phone with him. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Dogs seized in woods

Police and the RSPCA joined forces to break up a suspected illegal dog-fighting ring, seizing 27 animals in isolated woodland in North Wales. The dogs, described as pit bull-types, were found chained to trees with old barrels for shelter. Bones and the remains of sheep's heads were scattered around. Two men were being questioned last night under the Dangerous Dogs Act, which bans the breeding and keeping of unregistered fighting dogs. Police and a dozen RSPCA inspectors, acting under a search warrant, swooped on the site near a quarry just yards from the main road between Mold and Denbigh, Chwyd. Seventeen adult dogs and 10 puppies were found in what is thought to be the largest seizure of banned dogs since the act was introduced earlier this year.

1970s jail crumbling

Parts of a prison built less than 20 years ago are cracking-up because they appear to be built on faulty foundations, according to a report by Judge Tumm, Chief Inspector of Prisons, right. Some of the accommodation at Glen Parva young offender institution and remand centre, near Leicester, built in the early 1970s, may now have to be demolished.



Move to jail editor

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general, yesterday won approval in the High Court to seek to jail Stewart Steven, former editor of the *Mail on Sunday*, for publishing the deliberations of the jury in the Blue Arrow fraud trial. Lord Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Popplewell gave Sir Nicholas leave to seek to commit Mr Steven, and the newspaper's City editor, Clive Wolman, and to fine Associated Newspapers. The article, published on July 5 under the headline "Common People... Common Sense... Common Justice", had "disclosed in detail the deliberations of the jury", Philip Havers, for the attorney, said. It was the attorney's case that this breached a prohibition in the 1981 Contempt of Court Act. Mr Havers said. In granting leave, the judges said that the case should be heard before the end of the year.

Woman electrocuted

A coroner warned yesterday that all second-hand electrical equipment should be checked after being told that a young housewife was electrocuted by a £10 washing machine. Wendy Handy, 32, was electrocuted as her brother checked the machine after it started leaking a day after it was delivered to her home in Walcot, Swindon. John Elgar, the Wiltshire coroner, who recorded a verdict of death by misadventure, was told that the accident was caused by a fault in the washing machine, which was at least 22 years old. Philip Allen, an electrician with Southern Electric, said that a wiring fault in the plug had caused the washing machine to become live. Ms Handy was standing in a pool of water and probably touched a tap. Her brother escaped electrocution as he was wearing rubber-soled shoes.

Holocaust law demand

Denial of the historical reality of the Holocaust, in which at least six million Jews died, should be made a criminal offence, Michael Latham, director of the Council of Christians and Jews, said last night. The council called for any publication of the Goebbels diaries to be accompanied by reminders that Goebbels and other Nazi leaders were mass murderers. Extracts from the diaries have appeared in *The Sunday Times* and the *Daily Mail*.

Power of strike in Docklands move disputed

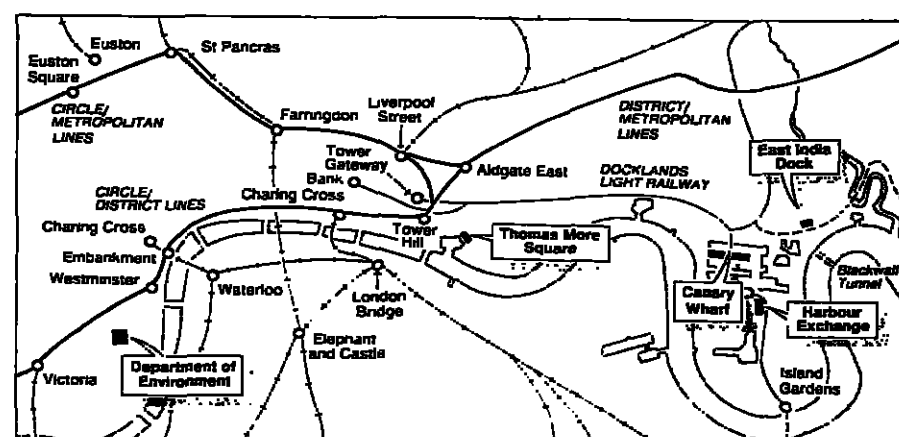
BY TIM JONES

UNION leaders and government officials clashed yesterday over the effectiveness of a one-day strike to protest against proposals to move staff from the environment and transport departments to London Docklands.

Both departments said the action had only a negligible effect. A spokesman for the environment department said that only 300 out of 3,000 employees had taken part.

Robert Newman, a union official, said: "It has been a greater success than we were expecting. Only the senior grades have gone in and they apologised for doing so."

Hugh O'Connor, another union official, said: "There are enough people in there to keep the place ticking over. You don't expect a one-



day strike to disrupt the running of the department nor to change the government's mind."

Four of the most probable sites for the move include Thomas More Square, Canary Wharf, East India

Dock, and the Harbour Exchange, Isle of Dogs.

Falling land values have left the London Docklands Development Corporation with a deficit of £55 million. Its annual report, published today, shows the corpora-

tion put aside £52 million to cover reduced values of its development land.

The loss is the second in the LDDC's history. Its 1989-90 report and accounts, which it did not publicise, showed a deficit

after tax of £4.25 million. The corporation owns 518 acres available for sale. It has sold 682 acres since it was set up in 1981, at an average price of £500,000 per acre. Its land is valued at £100,000 an acre.

Michael Pickard, the chairman, said the corporation had a difficult year because of the recession and the resulting high levels of empty office space. The civil servants' strike was not necessarily anti-Docklands. "I can understand there are people who are unhappy about it but we don't think it is a strike against Docklands at all. They don't want to go anywhere. If it was Croydon they would still be going on strike," he said.

The corporation hopes to hear news by the end of September on the Jubilee line extension to Canary Wharf.

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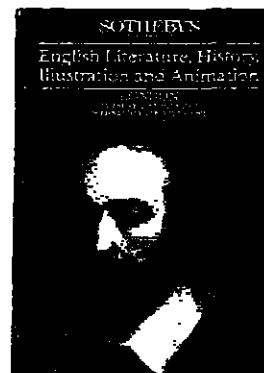
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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 16 1992

Boy found clinging to murdered mother on common

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE two-year-old boy who watched yesterday as his young mother was killed in broad daylight on Wimbledon Common in south London was so shocked that he was unable to cry or speak.

When found by a passer-by the child was covered in mud and bloodstains, clinging to his dead mother in a cove.

Last night as one senior detective called the killing the worst he had come across in 26 years the boy was being treated at a south London hospital for trauma and injuries. Police believe that he was also beaten, deliberately or because he tried to defend his mother, before the killer fled.

The woman, whose throat may have been cut, was found by a walker.

Detective Chief Inspector Mike Wickerson, head of CID in the Wimbledon area, said the child looked stunned.

Mr Wickerson said: "The child was completely covered in blood and dirt and in a complete state of shock."

The mother and child were out walking the family mongrel dog. When the boy was found he was still wearing his

trainers and blue tracksuit trousers but his green sweat shirt had been cast aside. He was comforted close to the scene of the murder by a woman doctor who arrived with the ambulance called by police.

The doctor volunteered to go to hospital with the boy and a policewoman and the two women comforted the child. The boy could not be a witness because of his age but he could provide clues and details for police if they decide to try and coax the story of the murder from him. A child psychiatrist may be brought in to help the boy and police to piece together a murder which may have taken place in a matter of minutes.

With the aid of drawings and careful questioning over days police could get some basic details which could be matched to information from other witnesses on the common. Children are questioned about crime usually with the help of parents, social workers and teachers. Many are much older and police do not know how well

the child can talk. They may also find many other witnesses. About 150 golfers had arrived for a match on the London Scottish course which was halted by police at the news of the murder and up to 100 morning walkers are usually out on the 1,100 acres of the common. For hours yesterday the entire common was cordoned off by police in the hope that the murderer might be found but by late afternoon detectives admitted that he must have slipped the net.

The murderer struck around 9.30am. The dead woman, in her early 20s, had parked her Volvo in the car park in the centre of the common and set off with the boy and their dog along well used paths. She let the dog off the lead and she was walking down along a path through a copse in the centre of a wood of oaks when she was attacked. Police do not know if the killer attacked her child and then her or simply pulled her from the path.

"The attack might have been so vicious and so fast she did not have time to scream," said Mr Wickerson. He said the attack had been "absolutely horrendous. The worst murder I have ever seen."

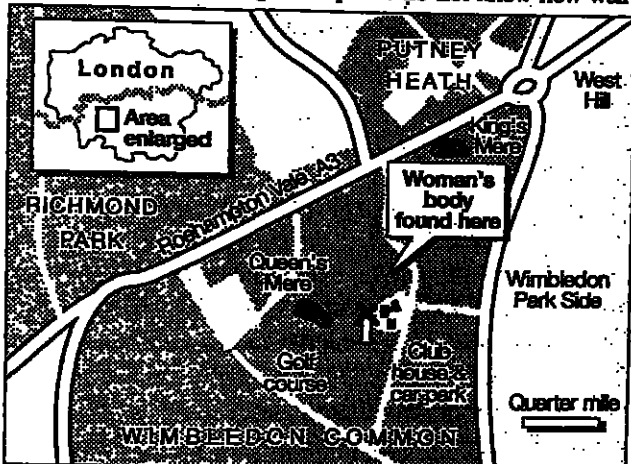
The muddy path and smashed branches show that there had been a struggle. The dead woman was lying on her side and her clothes had been left in disarray. She was found by a walker who was using his own dog. He saw what he thought was someone sun bathing, drew nearer and found the murder scene.

Police believe the woman lived near the common. She was not wearing a wedding ring and did not have a handbag but police found a document which could identify her. They checked the car park by asking the golfers and other visitors to stand by their cars until the Volvo was left unclaimed.

The scene of the murder remained cordoned off as officers worked beneath the trees. The spot is between two paths often used by walkers with dogs and children. Out in the open six police dogs combed another area. Other officers on horseback and on scrambler motorcycles also searched the common which was checked at one point by a police helicopter. Everyone coming off the common during the day was questioned.

David Haldane, senior keeper, said three men were always on patrol during the day and for 20 years there had been no serious trouble. The keepers said that for years the common had been a haven from the sort of violence now seen on London streets.

Wimbledon murder, page 1



Murder shatters tranquil common

By Robin Young

THE brutal murder yesterday of a young mother has shocked the suburban tranquility of the common where who live around Wimbledon Common, a calm, sprawling beauty spot where youngsters can play well away from the dangers of busy London streets.

Yesterday's attack, carried out in broad daylight, threw a shadow over the area. It took place just north of one of Wimbledon's main landmarks, its windmill, which was built in 1817 and which stood until the 1870s. It was here that Lord Baden-Powell wrote *Scouting for Boys* and the mill is generally regarded as the centre-piece of the common.

Police yesterday warned women to take extra care and to avoid all secluded parts of

the common. With schools breaking up for the summer holidays, parents are worried at how to keep their children well away.

Wimbledon Common has seen violent crimes in the past. In the Sixties and Seventies it was regarded as "the sin centre of south London" and was for a time an internationally famous haunt for homosexuals.

In August 1969 a 23-year-old police officer was stabbed to death at Queensmere lake, in the centre of the common. A month later a 29-year-old clerk was murdered by a gang on a "queer-bashing" expedition.

Women living in the area have complained frequently about cases of indecent exposure and some, even before yesterday's murder, said that they feared walking alone on the common.



Murder hunt: police searching for clues yesterday on Wimbledon common

Yugoslav stowaway seeks asylum

By Lin Jenkins

A YUGOSLAV teenager who escaped across Europe arrived in England as a stowaway aboard a Norwegian ferry.

Andi Duka, who was found tired, confused and hungry in a secure area of Tyne Commission Quay shortly after the ferry docked on Monday, says that he came from Pec on the Yugoslavia-Albania border.

He was taken to a children's home run by North Tyneside council, where he quickly made friends. He was invited to attend the school of one of the children yesterday, but staff thought it better for him to acclimatise to Britain and took him shopping for new clothes.

On Tuesday, a court gave him temporary leave to stay and remanded him to the care of North Tyneside social services. A council spokesman said: "A young person in the home has a very supportive. He has already made friends with some of them. He

speaks some English but not very much."

Officials have doubts about his account of the journey, but they believe he travelled from the disputed area of Kosovo overland to Milan, Hamburg, Stockholm, Oslo and Bergen before stowing away on *The Venus*, a Norwegian Color Line ferry that operates between the port and Tyneside.

Mike Robson, of the social services department, said: "He is okay, fit and healthy but remains bewildered, does not know what is going on and needs some space to help him settle."

Andi arrived with no money and no passport or documents detailing his identity. Efforts were yesterday being made to find a translator who could help officials to discover why he wanted to escape Kosovo, which has not suffered heavy fighting.

Home Office officials, who are sympathetic to his plight, say there are difficulties in processing a request for political asylum from a minor. Usually,

only a person aged over 18 years can be granted immigration status and there is no set procedure for those under age.

"The immigration service are aware that it is unusual for a child to arrive on his own in this country and will treat the situation accordingly. At present we do not know where his family are, but we do not believe they travelled with him," a spokesman said.

The application is likely to take more than a year to be dealt with. The Home Office said that it accepted Andi's story that he had hitch-hiked across Europe. "We will not be releasing details because he is making a case for asylum on the basis that he is terrified of returning to Yugoslavia."

Dag Romslo, UK manager of Norwegian Color Line ferries, said that Andi was found on the quayside in a restricted area as about 800 passengers disembarked. The company was investigating how he boarded the ship.

More soldiers killed, page 13



Supreme understatement: a model wears a blue silk crepe evening dress from Sir Hardy's new winter haute couture collection

Sir Hardy scales new heights

By Liz Smith, Fashion Editor

SIR Hardy Amies, established as London's leading couturier since 1946 and the designer responsible for first putting the Queen into shoulder pads, unveiled his winter haute couture line yesterday.

After half a century of dressing such a visible customer as the Queen, Sir Hardy is a master of faultless tailoring and the supreme understatement of the "little dress" that serves as the backdrop for his clients' jewellery.

In his new collection for winter he carries on the tradition of the grand evening dress with the perfectly sculpted décolleté in black lace and velvet as well as ankle-length columns of crepe or twinkly sequins, often worn wrapped up in a taffeta overskirt.

He also supplies his discreetly dressed clientele with tailored evening suits with the effortless cut of a hacking jacket but made up in scarlet satin or twinkly brocade. "A well-dressed woman is the one whose clothes never look out of place in the country," he says.

Apart from her acceptance of shoulder pads, the Queen rarely dabbles in fashion's seasonal changes. The royal hemlines just cover the knee while the rest of Sir Hardy's society clients can dither over longer, wrap-over styles, and slim cocktail dresses elongated to mid-calf length. The royal dressmaker, who will be 83 tomorrow, is the only British designer with an international empire of lucrative licences.



Sir Hardy: introduced Queen to shoulder pads

Ministers approve Green agency

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

THE proposed Environment Agency for England and Wales, controlling pollution of air, land and water, was approved yesterday after a Whitehall battle that has delayed it for a year.

The government has decided that a key part of the new body, the highly successful National Rivers Authority, should be transferred into it whole and not split up, as John Gummer, the agricultural minister, had wished.

The decision means that work can proceed on legislation to set up the agency, announced by John Major last July as a centrepiece of the government environmental programme, but Michael Howard, the environment secretary, said that a bill was unlikely to be introduced before November 1993, meaning that it will be mid-1994 at the earliest before the agency can begin operations.

The agency, a body of potentially formidable power, will embrace the NRA, which controls water quality, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, which polices heavy industry, and the waste regulatory functions of local authorities. The small Drinking Water Inspectorate, which many had expected to be included, is to stay for now in the environment department.

Mr Howard said the government was considering how to enhance its independence. The agency, a "one-stop shop" covering air, land and water, would be a major step forward in protecting the environment, Mr Howard said, at a press conference, flanked by David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, and Mr Gummer.

Although ministers were at pains to emphasise unanimity, it is clear that the agriculture minister has had to give way. Mr Gummer wanted only the NRA's pollution control functions to be part of the agency, with its responsibilities for flood defences and land drainage reverting to his ministry. The prospect set him in conflict with the NRA chairman, Lord Crickhowell, and environmentalists, and the dispute cost the government its chance to bring in the agency last year.

Charities want lottery cash share

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

CHARITIES stand to lose £232 million a year if a national lottery is introduced, according to a survey published today.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), which commissioned the research from NOP, is demanding half of the proceeds of the lottery in compensation. It has called on David Mellor, the heritage secretary, whose department is studying responses to the national lottery white paper before drafting a bill, to ensure that the interests of charities are safeguarded.

The government hopes that the lottery will be operating by 1994, to benefit the arts, sport, heritage and small charities from the expected £3 billion turnover.

The NOP findings, based on interviews of 1,909 people in May, suggest that 7 per cent of the lottery takings would come from money normally given to 300,000 charities a year. Judy Weleminsky, NCVO director, said: "This is a matter of deep concern for the voluntary sector whose income is already under pressure because of the effects of the recession."

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Young quickly abandon barrier contraception as relationship grows, study finds

Desire to show trust 'is raising Aids risk'

By JEREMY LAURANCE
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

HALF of young people having sex with a new partner for the first time use a condom, but as soon as the relationship becomes established they switch to the contraceptive pill, exposing themselves to the risk of HIV and Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases, researchers say.

More young people are using condoms, but, because they are seen as appropriate for casual relationships, in which there may be a risk of disease, their long-term use in a relationship is seen as indicating a lack of trust.

Speaking at the launch of a report, *Promoting Sexual Health*, published by the British Medical Association's Foundation for Aids, Valerie Kent, lecturer in psychology

at Goldsmiths' College, London, said: "Going on the Pill is a symbol of the importance of the relationship. Condoms are disliked because they are spontaneous, messy and unreliable — like paddling in your wellies. The risk young people feel they are exposed to is that of pregnancy, not HIV. Insisting on a condom indicates doubts about a relationship."

A study at Goldsmiths' in which 166 people aged between 16 and 24 were interviewed about their sex lives showed that most of them approached sexual encounters much less casually than older people believe. Sexual intercourse was seen as the point at which a barrier is crossed, confirming and extending a relationship. The production of a condom by one partner was often a signal that intercourse could take

place. However, their association with youth, inexperience, transience, and mistrust means that their use is soon ended, as inappropriate.

To get the message about sexual health across, Aids campaigns should include other sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia, herpes and genital warts, which are "vastly more common" and can have serious long-term consequences, Hilary Curtis, director of the Foundation for Aids, said. "It is much easier for people to relate to information on these diseases when they realise the risk is relevant to their own lives," Dr Curtis said. "About 600,000 people attended sexually transmitted disease clinics last year. That is very different from the few with HIV and Aids, which is, thankfully, still rare."

The government's target of

a 20 per cent cut in gonorrhoea cases by the end of the decade, set in the *Health of the Nation* white paper last week, was too narrow, Dr Curtis said. "It is not the biggest sexual health problem, but it is the best marker," she said. "I very much hope the prevention programme will be broad-based."

However, Derek Bodell, of the Health Education Authority, said that embarrassment about other sexually transmitted diseases, not evident with HIV, could have a counter effect if they were included in the Aids campaign. He said: "There is a wide belief that these diseases are curable, but people also see a tremendous stigma in them — no one wants to talk about them. We have to get the balance right."

Health advisers yesterday entered the ethical debate

over HIV testing and called for a 50 per cent increase in the number of counsellors who notify HIV-positive patients and their partners (Allison Roberts writes).

The Society of Health Advisers in Sexually Transmitted Diseases published its first statement of policy amid growing public concern over the notification of those who have been exposed to HIV infection. Partners should not be told of their exposure without the permission of those who have HIV, and responsibility for telling others lies with the infected individual or with a health adviser, the statement says.

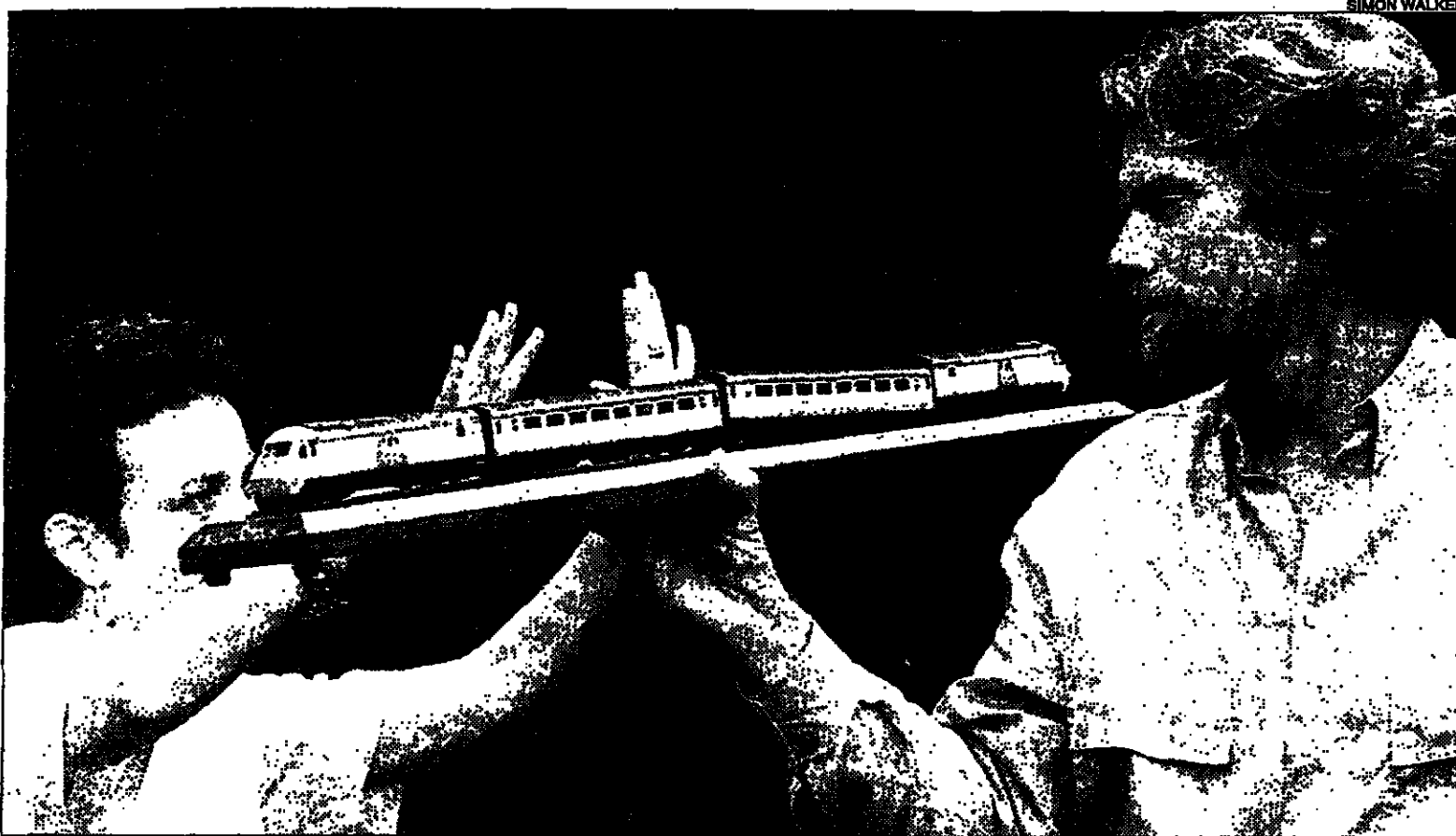
Wendy Majewska, vice-president of the society, said that confidentiality was an absolute necessity to encourage those at risk to be tested. "If people are deterred from coming forward, the disease

will simply be forced underground and controlling it will be much harder," she said.

The 250 sexual health advisers employed in Britain say that more posts must be created to cope with an increasing workload and a heightened role in control of HIV infection. The society wants the health department to set up proper training courses.

Contact tracing can take a long time and begins with a pre-test discussion about who to tell if results are positive. The issue is discussed again after the test, and names of partners may be given to advisers. The adviser then writes to the partner, on unheaded paper, asking him to contact a name, without saying why.

Those who respond are told that they have been exposed to an unspecified sexual disease, and are offered screening and counselling.



In training: Richard Branson at home yesterday with a model of the express he hopes to be run between London and Edinburgh

Branson aims high with express train service

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans to open up the rail network to private sector companies will get off to a flying start on Tuesday when Richard Branson, the airline entrepreneur, outlines his proposals for an express service between London and Edinburgh.

By leasing an InterCity 125, and paying British Rail an agreed fee for running on the 393 miles of track between London and Edinburgh, Mr Branson hopes to provide passengers with a quality service capable of attracting back to rail a substantial portion of the 1.6 million passengers who fly between the two cities each year.

Although the first passenger franchise is not expected to come into operation much before April 1994, Mr Branson will be seeking approval from transport department officials to begin running his experimental express service from next year. If the pilot scheme proves successful, Mr Branson hopes to expand the service using InterCity 225s, BR's flagship trains.

The proposed express service will offer passengers a four-hour journey between London and Edinburgh,

equivalent to the service provided by BR. In addition, passengers using Mr Branson's Virgin service will also have airline-style food and drinks included in the ticket price, as well as access to modern business communications technology. With the introduction of InterCity 225s, journey times could be cut by half an hour.

Once the new express service is operating, Virgin intends to begin marketing fly-rail tickets, giving passengers the option of using either service on each leg of their journey.

The Virgin express service could dramatically alter patterns of air-rail travel on the London to Edinburgh route, where 1.6 million people a year travel by air and 800,000 by train.

Mr Branson is convinced that the scheme could also encourage more people to switch from air to rail travel, reducing the slots needed for short-haul routes, and helping to free Britain's congested airports. He is eager to expand the Virgin rail services on other BR routes.

Dismissing allegations that the government's rail privatisation proposals were little more than a "cherry picker's

charter", a spokesman for Virgin said: "It is impossible to cherry-pick a particular route which the current operator says is unprofitable, and which the operator will not run himself." Private sector access to the rail network, along with the provision of airline-style services, "have become second nature in countries all over the world but they have been filed in the 'too-difficult cupboard' in Britain," he added.

Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, is understood to have written to all BR managers and staff yesterday, in an effort to boost morale in the wake of the government's rail privatisation white paper.

The privatisation plans were criticised yesterday by the Scottish branch of the Railway Development Society. Douglas Smart, its secretary, said the break-up of the network would cause confusion and instability.

"The government seems to have learnt nothing from the disaster of bus deregulation," Mr Smart said. "What the railways require is not privatisation but increased financial support on the level of other European countries."

German sell-off, page 13

Virgin postpones South Africa run

By NICHOLAS WATT

VIRGIN Atlantic Airways has postponed a planned service to South Africa until at least October next year, saying that the take-off and landing slots it was allocated at Heathrow airport make the service "inoperable".

The airline was allocated two slots a week from this winter for its service to Johannesburg with no guarantee of slots in the summer. The airline won the right to compete with British Airways and South African Airways on the route after the two governments signed a treaty last month on air services. The airline has pledged to under-cut rivals' fares by 40 per cent to 60 per cent.

With so few slots at Heathrow, Virgin could not spend the £35 million it had planned to invest on the South Africa route. Richard Branson, Virgin group chairman, ruled out flying from Gatwick as unprofitable. He said: "It is just too sad for words that finally having got the South African government to move it should come to this."

Tim Walden, chairman of the Heathrow Scheduling Committee, rejected Mr Branson's statement. He said: "The application by Virgin Atlantic for slots this win-

ter to operate a service between Heathrow and Johannesburg was met in full. The claim that Virgin Atlantic is unable to inaugurate a new service between London and South Africa due to a lack of slots is wholly misleading and inaccurate."

Mr Branson said the British government should change the slot-allocation system which discriminated against newer airlines. "Slots at Heathrow are taken by whoever comes first, regardless of the use they make of them." The government should give a directive to the slot management committee to give... slots to the person who will make best use of them.

Airlines did not own slots and if they decided to cancel a route the slot should be opened to competition. British Airways had cancelled its Dublin service to put more flights on routes planned by Virgin. The government should act because Virgin's expansion plans represented less than one per cent of Heathrow's slots, he said. Virgin has not ruled out asking the Civil Aviation Authority to force British Airways to give up some of its slots or even taking the matter to court.

Childbirth policy to be studied

The government announced a review of its policy on care during childbirth yesterday in response to criticism by the health select committee of NHS maternity services.

An expert committee, including representatives of women using the services, will be set up to examine how women can be given more say in the care they receive during pregnancy and childbirth. The select committee report in March said that women were increasingly anxious to have babies at home and that spurious arguments about safety were being used to persuade them to go into hospital.

Brian Mawhinney, minister for health, said in a written parliamentary reply that the committee would make recommendations about arrangements for care, "taking full account of the shifts in the attitudes of many women in favour of a more homely setting for care. Its considerations will include birth at home."

Theft case

A former secretary of Eithnog, the Leonard Cheshire Foundation home at Upper Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, appeared in court yesterday, accused of stealing £138,000 from her former employer. Colwyn Bay magistrates remanded Sheila Langston, 45, a widow, of Cae Llwyd Bach, Penmachno, Gwynedd, on bail until August 5. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Death message

A man who was depressed about his chronic back pain slashed his throat and then wrote an obscure message on his bedroom wall in his own blood, an inquest at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, was told yesterday. Leslie Bennett, 46, of Iwer Heath, had knifed himself several times, including plunging the weapon through his jugular vein. A suicide verdict was recorded.

Laura 'fair'

Laura Davies is now strong enough to ride a tricycle, an official of the Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh said. The condition of the four-year-old Manchester girl, who underwent a liver and small intestine transplant at the American hospital last month, was upgraded on Tuesday from serious to fair. Laura recently began sampling strained foods to get used to eating.

Cars recalled

Some Yugo cars, excluding Sana models, have been recalled for checks on engine fuel systems by Zastava (GB) of Reading, Berkshire, Yugo Cars' British headquarters. The recall was ordered after it was found that some of the fuel pipes were of poor quality and could crack. Fuel systems found to be defective will be replaced free of charge. The transport department is monitoring the recall.

Sewage charge

The National Rivers Authority has decided to prosecute Yorkshire Water for allegedly pumping raw sewage onto Sandstead beach near Whitby last August bank holiday. Scarborough borough council will also be charged. No date has yet been set for the hearing. Yorkshire Water, which faces a maximum fine of £20,000, said last night that it would admit the charge.

Halford plans 'bugging' plea in Euro-court

ALISON Halford is planning to take claims that her telephones were bugged to the European Court of Human Rights.

The spiralling cost of the sexual discrimination case before an industrial tribunal in Manchester has brought pressure on all sides to reach a settlement. Lawyers meeting yesterday in Manchester were understood to be discussing the terms under which Miss Halford, 52, would drop her case against the chief constable of Merseyside, HM Inspector of Constabulary, the Home Secretary and the Northamptonshire police authority.

Miss Halford says she was barred from promotion because she was a woman. The Equal Opportunities Commission is covering her legal costs. Estimates that the hearing could run into next April have clearly alarmed the Home Office which has already said that a settlement

The costs of the Alison Halford tribunal are bringing calls for a settlement. Ronald Faux looks at the case

of the case would be welcomed.

When it resumes on Monday the hearing enters its 40th day and costs will once more begin clocking up at the formidable rate. Miss Halford, James Sharples, chief constable of Merseyside and jointly the home secretary and HM inspector of constabulary are each represented by a QC with junior and solicitor. The cost of this representation alone is likely, according to one legal source, to reach more than £4,000 a day. Each barrister could be paid a brief fee of between £10,000 and £15,000 plus up to £1,500 a



Miss Halford and Jim Sharples, her chief

day. A junior barrister would probably be on half this rate while solicitors for a senior fee earner would receive between £150 and £250 an hour.

An informed estimate puts the legal bill so far at more than £800,000 plus the cost of two earlier High Court hearings. The final sum would also include the fees of solicitors not at the hear-



ing but working on evidence for each side. Earlier attempts to reach a settlement failed, apparently, when the Merseyside police authority refused the terms demanded by Miss Halford. These are understood to have included a pension as a deputy chief constable, all disciplinary proceedings against her dropped and a course named after her at the

Bramhill police college in Hampshire. What is now believed to be under discussion is a cash settlement in the region of £250,000 with all disciplinary proceedings against her dropped. As an assistant chief constable with 30 years police service Miss Halford would be eligible for a pension of almost £30,000 a year.

The settlement details now being worked out in Manchester will be put to an emergency meeting of the Merseyside police authority tomorrow. Miss Halford has almost completed her case and it seems likely that the authority could decide that the cost is too high.

Rex Makin, solicitor for Miss Halford, yesterday denied claims that £300,000 compensation plus full pension rights amounting to £1 million had been offered to Miss Halford to settle the case. "A settlement fee has not even been discussed. It's all nonsense."

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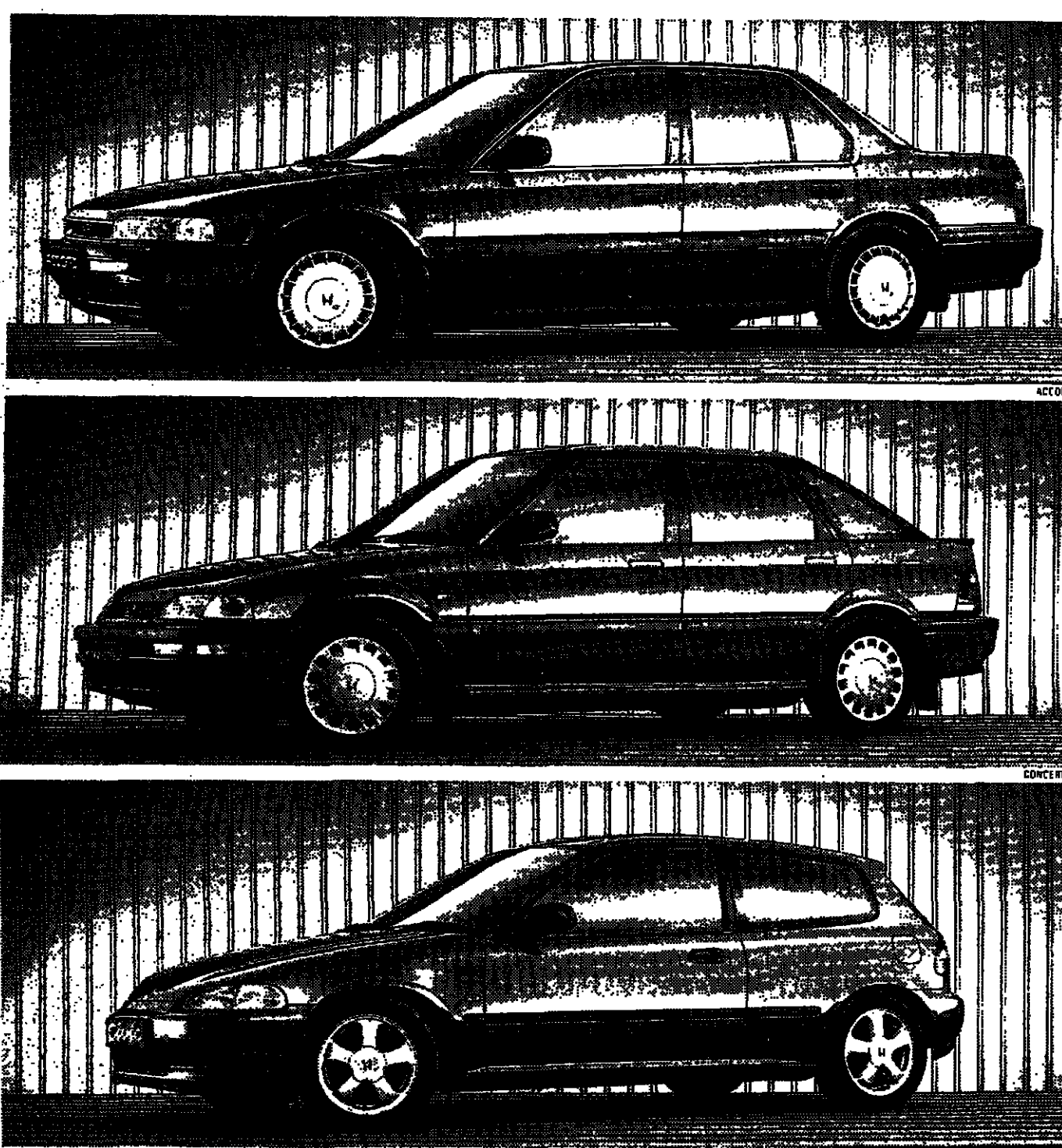
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"Worth a long hard look...and a long hard drive." Not Honda's words, but those of 'Autocar & Motor.' The aerodynamic styling,

Whips 'punished' in committee row

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative whips' tactics in trying to remove "unsound" MPs from Commons select committees suffered a fresh setback last night with the election of Robert Adley, the railway enthusiast, as chairman of the transport committee.

The shambles caused by the whips' interference in the selection process led to MPs on the committee rejecting Alan Haselhurst, Conservative MP for Saffron Walden, who was regarded as the "whips' choice" by six votes to four in a private session. Instead they opted for Mr Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch, a persistent critic of the government's transport policies. He was elected by eight votes to two with the support of Labour MPs sponsored by transport unions. The election is looked on by Tory backbenchers as just punishment for the whips, who rid themselves of Nicholas Winterton, a member of their "awkward squad".

In recent weeks Mr Adley led a series of rebellions on the standing committee examining the paving bill for privatising BR. In one division, the government was

saved from defeat only by the chairman's casting vote.

Roger Freeman, the transport minister, appeared resigned to the appointment last night, commenting: "I look forward to having an educated exchange if and when I am called upon to give evidence. I am a great supporter of the railways, as I know he is."

As the 16 committees completed the election of their chairmen, Marion Roe was elected the new chairman of the health committee in place of Mr Winterton.

In a tight contest for the defence committee chairmanship, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, MP for Uppingham, beat off the challenge of other Tory hopefuls, including Winston Churchill and Peter Viggers. The Eton and Oxford-educated Sir Nicholas is a military history enthusiast.

Other elections include: **Foreign Affairs:** The former Conservative cabinet minister David Howell was re-elected chairman.

Treasury and civil service: John Watts, Conservative MP for Slough, was elected as chairman, replacing Terence Higgins. Mr Watts has been a member of the committee

for six years.

Social security: The Labour MP Frank Field was re-elected chairman. The committee is to pursue its enquiry into the Maxwell pension funds.

Employment: Ron Leighton, Labour MP for Newham North East, is to remain chairman. **Scottish affairs:** The revived committee, which was suspended for five years, will be chaired by William McKelvey, Labour MP for Kilmarnock and Loudoun.

Science and technology: Sir Giles Shaw, the former Conservative minister and an unsuccessful challenger for the post of Speaker, was elected the committee's first chairman.

Trade and industry: Richard Caborn saw off the challenge of fellow Labour MP Stan Orme to become chairman.

Agriculture: The Tory MP Jerry Wiggins is once again chairman. **Environment:** Robert Jones, Conservative MP for West Hertfordshire, becomes the new chairman. **National Heritage:** Gerald Kaufman, the outgoing shadow foreign secretary, secured the chairmanship of the new committee.



Sir Nicholas Bonsor: beat off other Tory hopefuls

Dublin ministers go to Stormont

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRISH government ministers for the first time joined leaders of the four main parties in the province and the British government for discussions at Stormont yesterday.

The Irish delegation included four ministers and was led by John Wilson, the deputy prime minister, and David Andrews, the foreign minister. The government was represented by Sir Patrick Mayhew the Northern Ireland secretary and Jeremy Hanley, the minister for political development in Belfast.

The Dublin delegation's arrival at Stormont on the edge of Belfast for further discussions in the Strand 2 phase of the process, which began at Lancaster House in London last week, was marked by a small Loyalist protest led by Cedric Wilson, the former DUP mayor of Castlereagh.

The discussions were chaired by Sir Ninian Stephen, the former governor general of Australia. They were devoted to cross-questioning of the Irish government over its proposals for establishing a new relationship between Northern Ireland and the republic.

As the sessions continue today and tomorrow, this process will develop with ques-

tioning of the SDLP, the government and the two Unionist parties on their opening presentations. The debate in this phase centres on Dublin's desire to build on its gains made under the Anglo-Irish agreement to enhance its say in the government of Northern Ireland, as against the Unionist determination to reduce the republic's involvement.

Most participants in the process now accept that it will not be over by July 27, when the pre-arranged gap between meetings of the Anglo-Irish conference is due to end. It is likely that the two governments will agree to further delay the conference meeting scheduled for that day.

It is not yet clear whether the talks will continue throughout the summer or break off for a time during August. This is not simply a matter of allowing the politicians a summer holiday. The SDLP is regarded as favouring a break so as to allow it to take stock of a process which appears to have developed slightly against its interests in the past few weeks.

The key development was the assurances given by Sir Patrick to Unionists that he favoured their views on devolution, in return for their agreement to move the talks into the second phase. This was regarded as an implicit rejection by him of the SDLP's own ambitious plan to have Northern Ireland governed through an EC style six-member commission.

Unionists favour a continuation of the process until a conclusion of some kind is reached. This point even featured in some speeches delivered at Orange rallies during last weekend's demonstrations marking July 12.

□ The IRA yesterday blew up a new clubhouse at Balmoral golf club in south Belfast. Two armed and masked men planted devices in the building shortly before noon. The clubhouse was extensively damaged but no one was injured.

AROUND THE LOBBY

Pollution agency to be set up

The government is to set up a new independent pollution agency in England and Wales. Michael Howard, the environment secretary, told the Commons at question time. It will bring together the functions of the National Rivers Authority, HM Inspectorate of Pollution and the waste regulations of local authorities. Legislation will be introduced at the earliest opportunity.

Cleaner sea

Compliance with European Community standards on bathing waters around Britain's coasts has gone up to 75 per cent from 51 per cent six years ago, David Maclean, the environment minister, said at question time. A £2 billion programme is in hand to bring virtually all bathing waters up to standard by 1995.

Weapons ban

Disguised firearms such as pen pistols, umbrella shotguns and guns masquerading as briefcases will be illegal from January 1, Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, said in a written reply. There are to be ex-gratia payments to people handing them in.

Council costs

Local councils spend on average £2,000 a year for every adult, John Redwood, the local government minister, said at question time. Councils are on average in debt by £1,000 for every person as a result of failing to balance their budgets.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Summer adjournment debates. Lords (11): Boundary Commissions bill, second reading.

Job losses blamed for economic ills

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH membership of the European exchange rate mechanism should be combined with government intervention to ease pressures on the economy, Labour said yesterday as it highlighted job losses during the recession.

Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, said that the failure of the economy to bounce back after the election, as the Conservatives had promised, only reinforced the case for the Opposition's proposed £1 billion recovery package of training schemes and tax breaks for industry. The country was in danger of "leaving itself in two" in despair over the misery of unemployment.

Speaking on the eve of the release of today's unemployment figures for June, which are expected to show another sharp rise to well over 2.7 million, Mr Blair said: "If we are to remain within the ERM, which is right, then the government cannot stand idly by. We will have the constraints of ERM membership without taking active measures to compensate for the lack of flexibility which membership brings."

With Conservative MPs becoming increasingly restive about ERM membership and the government's inability to boost the economy by cutting interest rates and devaluing the pound, Labour is expected to open a second front over the summer by emphasising

the need for interventionist policies cushioning the impact of high interest rates.

Mr Blair released figures demonstrating the damage done by two years of falling output and the government's failure to soften the blow of rising unemployment.

He said that the young and the long-term unemployed, those without a job for at least a year, had borne the brunt of the downturn. The number of unemployed people under the age of 25 had risen by 72 per cent between April 1990 and April 1992. The rise in the South-East was 200 per cent. This compared with a 67 per cent national increase in unemployed claimants. The number of the long-term unemployed had grown by three times the rate of the rest of the jobless.

As many people were chasing vacancies today than at any time during the last two years. "The government's £200 million employment action scheme, providing six months of work experience for the long-term unemployed, had failed to mop up the increase. It was providing places for fewer than 5 per cent of the people who had lost their jobs since its launch in June."

Rising jobless figures were the single biggest factor in holding back the recovery, particularly in the consumer and housing markets, Mr Blair said.

Ashdown urges tax shift

By PHILIP WEBSTER

THE burden of taxation must be shifted from savings and employment to penalties on damaging activities such as pollution, says Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader.

In a further attempt to set his party apart from Labour on the economy, Mr Ashdown said taxation should not be talked of in terms of redistributing wealth but of creating opportunity. If the proposed EC petrol tax were adopted along with the full taxation of company car benefits it would raise enough revenue to cut tax by 5p in the pound, he said.

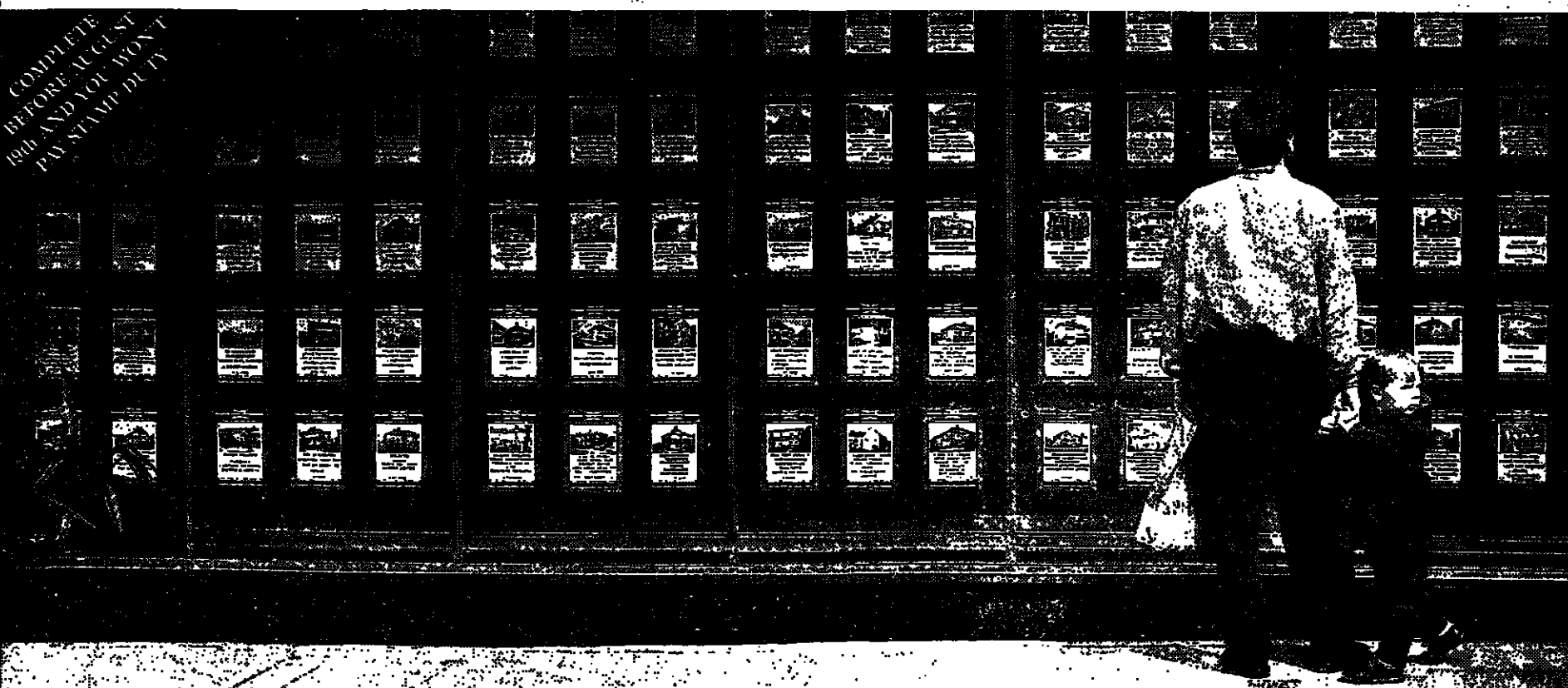
Mr Ashdown told the American Chamber of Commerce in London: "The current received wisdom is that the voters will not vote for a government which does not

promise to reduce personal taxes. I do not think this is true but what is certain is that Britain cannot afford to believe it is true, since we need to create the climate of public investment which is essential to economic success."

He called on British politicians to recognise that they were losing their power to control overall economic policy. "For years politicians have tried to stimulate increased economic growth by pulling the levers and pushing the buttons. They should kick the habit."

The government should concentrate on so-called "micro" measures, such as training programmes, investment in public education and transport and measures to help small businesses.

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Rebellion by backbenchers gives MPs a 38% increase for office costs

Tory defends revolt over allowances

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JERRY Wiggan and his staff were not exactly cracking open the champagne yesterday after the team of Commons rebels that won MPs an extra 38 per cent in their office costs allowances. But the Weston-super-Mare MP, his Australian secretary and his young researcher were looking forward to a less niggardly operation once the additional £6,800 wrung out of the Exchequer in the small hours came on stream.

Mr Wiggan, 55, has been a Conservative MP for 23 years. He is a former minister, and as chairman of the all-party Commons agriculture committee he is one of the most senior backbenchers. He was also one of the leaders of the backbench uprising that, with the support of the opposition parties, overwhelmed the prime minister's appeal for restraint and a more modest 14 per cent increase.

Mr Wiggan was unapologetic yesterday. He pointed to the report from the Top Salaries Review Body as justification for the rebellion, saying that the government was only making matters worse by interfering with its recommendations, then making a fuss when overruled by the Commons. His office dealt with up to 80 letters a week from constituents, many of which required individual attention and innumerable follow-up letters to government depart-

ments, local authorities and other public bodies. His secretary also had to keep his diary, deal with phone calls and help him in his outside business interests. "The welfare officer role of the MP has increased inexorably since I first joined in 1969," he said. "The fuss is about the fact that the government has intervened. If they had not intervened but accepted the report, I rather doubt that you lot [the media] would have bothered about it very much."

Mr Wiggan brushed aside talk of greedy MPs voting themselves a backdoor pay rise. The new office costs allowance of £39,960, covering staff salaries and equipment, was only paid by the Commons fees office in response to itemised claims and, short of outright fraud, he saw little scope for MPs to pocket a personal windfall.

But what of the many MPs who employ their wives as secretaries? "The only MPs who pay their wives expect and get from them at least the performance the money would buy from somebody else. Most wives who work in this place get paid relatively badly compared with the free market because they are captive. I don't think there is anything inherently wrong. If your wife is an efficient secretary or administrator, in paying her," Morella, his wife, works for him occasionally on

a voluntary and unpaid basis.

His priority, he said, was to increase his staffing to the review body's recommended limit of two full-timers. At present, he employs a secretary, Maria Niall, and Christian Mahne, a researcher, who joined him after the election and will shortly be departing for university.

Miss Niall, as a "top-flight PA", in Mr Wiggan's words, is likely to be earning near the top of the £10,000-£20,000 income bracket thought to apply to most Commons secretaries. Researchers, as befits their youth and quasi-student status, earn less.

On the face of it, Mr Wiggan and his colleagues would seem to have the leeway to take on two full-timers, although they still have to find the money to pay for business computers.

Miss Niall said that her chief frustration was that she could not give her boss's constituents her full attention. Extra money and extra staff would mean a swifter service for the public.

Diary, page 14
Leading article, page 15



Office politics: Jerry Wiggan, one of the Tory rebels, with his secretary Maria Niall in their Westminster office

Westminster the poor relation in world politics

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH MPs' office expenses have lagged behind most of their counterparts in Europe, America and Australia over the past decade.

In spite of Tuesday's vote which will give them nearly £40,000 in office allowances, they still fare badly against MEPs who get £74,952 a year. A comparison of allowances published by the Top Salaries Review Body shows that British MPs' staff allowances are less than half those in 12 other developed countries. The MPs are certainly worse off than their col-

leagues in Canada, Australia, France and Greece, New Zealand and the Belgian senate.

In the United States, Canada, Australia and Germany legislators have suites of offices, while British MPs are lucky if they get a single room in Westminster.

The American allowances are so great that they are dismissed as "deviant", while provision in Australia and Canada was partly explained by the sheer size of the countries, the report says. British MPs should, however, be brought nearer in line with the larger European countries such as France and Germany, it says.

French MPs get a staff allowance of £29,420 plus £27,998 for research assistants. A single room is provided for each deputy although no room is provided for staff. MPs get free calls from Paris to their constituency, free postage from the Palais Bourbon and free headed notepaper. They also a free first class rail pass and half-price rail travel for spouses, 60 return flights to their constituencies and taxi fares reimbursed.

In Germany there is a general allowance of £22,368 tax-free, covering secretarial and research staff, subsistence and constituency expenses. Secretarial help is met from

the general allowance, with shared research assistants provided free. Typing pool facilities are also available. Basic office equipment is provided and German MPs get free railway travel, free telephone calls and unlimited stationery.

MEPs are given £1,824 a month for office management costs, telephone and travel, a secretarial allowance of up to £4,320 a month, and a communications allowance of £725 for data processing and fax machines. In addition they get £126 a day for attending a meeting with the EC, plus £63 for overnight accommodation. MEPs are

entitled to a mileage allowance, reimbursed air travel to attend meetings and £1,813 a year for other travel.

At present British MPs get a maximum of £27,166 office cost allowances plus £2,717 for staff pension contributions. They get shared or single office accommodation, free telephone calls for parliamentary business from Westminster, free postage, an unlimited supply of envelopes and headed paper. They are also entitled to first class rail, sea or air vouchers for journeys to their constituencies or home and mileage ranging from 13.8 to 61.9 pence a mile.

Insiders guide their bosses

By SHEILA GUNN

DAVID Mathieson's value to Stuart Bell and other Labour MPs he has worked for is his knowledge of Westminster and the way the place works. But he believes the term "researcher" is something of a misnomer.

His progress is fairly typical of a Labour MP's assistant. Now 31, he started working without pay for Frank Dobson in 1984 while studying for his PhD in modern Labour party history at the Institute of Historical Research. His main contribution was a report on infertility services.

When Mr Dobson was elected to the shadow cabinet, he employed Mr Mathieson as his assistant for something less than £5,000 a year. He saw his role as making an MP more efficient.

"There is so much about the House of Commons and Parliament that can only be learnt from experience or an MP wastes time wandering around the corridors," he said. "An MP needs people around him who can save his time by looking at specific projects, liaising with backbenchers, the press, lobbyists and others around Westminster."

One of the skills a good researcher picks up is putting down parliamentary questions. "A lot of time is spent on PQs. It becomes something of an art form because ministers are becoming more and more sophisticated in fobbing you off with noncommittal replies," Mr Mathieson said.

Conservative MPs often find those with private incomes willing to work for free, although their usefulness is often limited by lack of experience of Westminster's ways. As with MPs, it is the way of life which is the key attraction for those fascinated by politics.

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the 1.8 to the 0-60 in 6.8 seconds and 140 mph top speed of the Cloverleaf 4.

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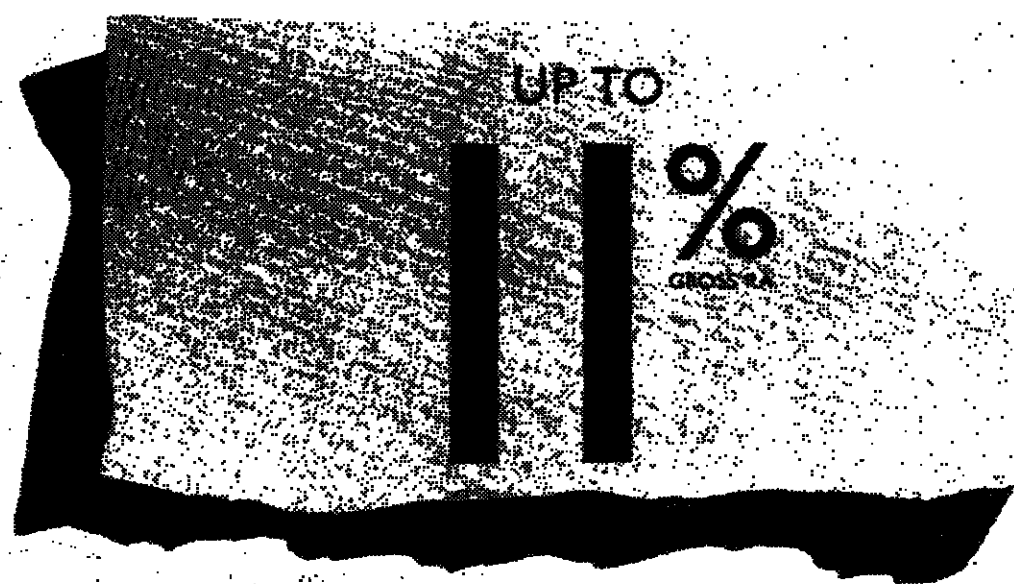
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A black and white photograph of a large, circular, domed building, likely a stadium or arena. The building has a prominent dome and several arched entrances. In the foreground, there is a sign that reads "STADIUM" and some debris or rubble. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like appearance.

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Alternative agriculture leads to higher prices and lower incomes, ministry survey says

Organic farms strive to make a profit

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

HALF the wholly organic farms in Britain are running at a loss and most of the rest are making such small profits that they have little hope of viability, according to a report commissioned by the agriculture ministry.

The survey, the most comprehensive to date, challenges the belief that organic farming can offer farmers a livelihood while avoiding the overproduction and countryside destruction seen as inherent in intensive agriculture.

Completion of the study, due last autumn, was delayed because the ministry asked Michael Murphy, the author and a senior economist at Cambridge University's department of land economy, to reconsider parts of it. Mr Murphy said yesterday: "The evidence is that it's difficult if not impossible to run a wholly organic farm profitably even with a very high mark-up for organic produce."

The survey says that arable and horticultural growers

practising organic methods on part of their acreage, while continuing to use manufactured fertilisers and pesticides on the rest, are the only organic farmers whose incomes compare well with those in conventional agriculture. Although as many as a 1,000 farmers say they use organic methods, there are no more than 380 genuinely commercial practitioners in Britain, which has 178,000 full-time farmers, the report estimates. The value of their output is put at one fifteenth of 1 per cent of total farm production.

Mr Murphy said: "We based our findings on the profits and losses of organic farms in the year 1989-90, so there could have been an increase in the number of organic farms since then. But as late as the spring of last year we were unable to identify more than 400 genuinely commercial organic farms."

The report estimates that the average net income of the 117 wholly organic farms vis-

ited for the survey is no more than £1,132 a year, of which £673 is attributable to earnings from beef and breakfast and other non-agricultural activities. Half run at a loss.

Net income, at £3,510 a year, is slightly better when the 121 partly organic farms in the survey sample are included. Mr Murphy said that organic farming could generate only such low incomes even with prices of up to three times those of conventionally grown produce.

Bill Starling, chairman of British Organic Farmers, said: "There are at least 1,000 registered organic farmers, according to the latest figures. How does Mr Murphy think they are surviving if they are doing as badly as he says?"

Organic Farming as a Business in Great Britain. (Agricultural Economics Unit, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge, 19 Silver Street, Cambridge CB3 9EP; £15.00)



Taking the bull by the horns: Richard Young, who shunned chemicals 18 years ago. "We had to develop our own market," he says

Family's success shows the way

RICHARD Young, a cattle and cereal farmer, boasts that he has not used a bag of fertiliser or a can of chemical spray since 1974. That was the year in which the 470-acre family farm on the Cotswold escarpment at Broadway, Hereford and Worcester, went fully organic (Michael Hornsby writes).

He and his sister, Rosamond, made losses in some years, but the mere fact that they are still in business 18 years later is evidence that organic farming may be more resilient than cold economic statistics suggest.

"We had to develop our own market," Mr Young said. "About 12 years ago we converted part of the farmhouse to a butcher's shop. We send the cattle to be slaughtered and the carcasses are then hung in our own cold store for a fortnight to mature. We hire a butcher for three days a week to cut the meat up."

Customers travel from hundreds of miles away to stock up their deep freezers. They pay £3.63 a pound for top-

side of beef and £5.15 for rump steak, only about 10 to 15 per cent more, Mr Young reckons, than they would pay for conventionally reared beef in the butcher's shop or supermarket.

He says that his customers are getting meat that tastes better and comes from animals fed only on pasture and, in the winter, on silage and hay. All are reared from birth on the farm. The Youngs have 150 cattle.

Mr Young says that he can get up to £240 a tonne for his organic wheat, more than twice the standard price, and that his yields, averaging just over two tonnes an acre, are better than those indicated in the Cambridge study.

"The EC is paying farmers £90 an acre to grow nothing under set-aside and £234 an acre to grow linseed, because there is said to be a market for it," Mr Young said. "Britain imports two thirds of its organic food, yet environmentally friendly organic growers get no financial encouragement or help from the government."

Town aims to honour unknown heroes

BY PAUL WILKINSON

STRATFORD had Shakespeare, Liverpool had the Beatles, Rotherham had Mr Chrimmes. But plans to honour the unsung inventor of the screw-down tap—and other local worthies—have run into trouble.

The names included Ross Heseltine, a bank manager's daughter, and Ebenezer Elliot, the Corn Law Rhymist. The Labour-controlled council wants to put plaques on the home of Mr Chrimmes, whose first name nobody can recall, and other perceived celebrities who lived in the South Yorkshire industrial town.

Plans have also been made to mark locations which the councillors believe have great significance, such as the Yates and Haywood factory, a leading maker of stove grates. The council says that it wants to raise "historical consciousness" particularly among visitors, but the idea has been ridiculed by local people.

David Nuttall, a Conservative councillor, said: "I am worried that this could snowball into guidebooks, heritage officers and the rest of it. I just cannot see that sticking up plaques commemorating people no one has ever heard of will do much to boost tourism."

The only vaguely recognisable famous name on the list is Sir Donald Bailey, inventor of the portable military bridge. Miss Heseltine's claim to fame is that she married Anthony Trollope. Ebenezer Elliot was a 19th century poet.

Chris Gillam, Rotherham's deputy director of libraries, said: "Industrial towns like Rotherham often have an unjustified tacky and smugky image. This scheme would help to give the town a cared-for look." The plaques, costing about £80, will be made of metal or epoxy resin.

Falcons' nests raided

Egg thieves are hampering efforts to boost breeding of the peregrine falcon, one of Britain's most spectacular birds of prey. Two months after an announcement that the birds' population was the highest for more than 50 years, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reported yesterday that human persecution has caused the failure of more than 50 peregrine nests in Wales and Scotland this year.

At least 5 per cent of breeding peregrines in Britain have failed because of "human interference", the society said. "Many nests have been robbed or destroyed and adult birds shot or poisoned."

More than 40 pairs trying to nest in Wales were unsuccessful, seven of them on Anglesey where a female peregrine was shot on her nest. Some eggs taken from ten nests in Scotland are thought to have been stolen for falconers in Germany and the Middle East.

Royal gift sold

A gun given by Queen Victoria to John Brown, her servant, was sold for £15,000 at the Royal Antiques Fair in London. The gun had been made for Prince Albert.

Driver jailed

Adrian Kari, 27, of Croydon, south London, who squirted ammonia in the face of another driver after an argument, was jailed for five years by a Central Criminal Court judge.

Car fire death

Staff at a computer firm in Basingstoke, Hampshire, tried unsuccessfully to rescue a man who set himself ablaze and burnt to death in his car in the firm's car park.

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OVERSEAS NEWS 11

Radicals aim to 'kill a cop a day' in war of townships

FROM MICHAEL HAMILYN IN JOHANNESBURG AND GERALD SHAW IN CAPE TOWN

A NEW slogan has been heard in South Africa's strife-torn black townships: "Kill a cop a day!" Yesterday's police man died in a hail of AK47 bullets in the township of Vosloorus on the East Rand, 14 miles southeast of Johannesburg. At least 106 policemen have been murdered so far this year compared with 137 in the whole of 1991.

A police official in Pretoria said the threat had been made by the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the military wing of the Pan Africanist Congress. Congress members earlier coined the slogan "One settler, one bullet."

The government has expressed its concern over the apparent campaign against the police. President de Klerk said in a statement yesterday after a marathon session with officials and advisers: "Linked

to the mass mobilisation campaign of the ANC (African National Congress) alliance, there has been a disturbing increase in attacks on the police. At recent trials, evidence has been heard about alleged ANC orders to murder members of the police force."

Mr de Klerk said that the government, therefore, would ask the judicial commission enquiring into the violence under Justice, Richard Goldstone to investigate the causes of recent attacks on the police. Mr de Klerk's statement, which also made important concessions to ANC demands for the disbandment of the foreign mercenary battalions of the defence force and the Koevoet unit of the police, was discussed yesterday by the national working committee of the ANC. But an ANC official said that it did not go far enough on hostels, on the carrying of traditional weapons or what would happen to disbanded mercenaries.

The disbandment of 32 Battalion, made up of Angolans, 31 Battalion, of Bushmen, and Koevoet, of Namibians, had been pressed on the government by the Goldstone commission. Judge Goldstone had also invited foreign jurists to make recommendations on how the South African police should handle demonstrations.

The recommendations were reinforced by a warning from the judge about a demonstration "in the centre of Cape Town yesterday. The organisers were determined to be on their best behaviour to give the lie to their detractors, who say that mass action cannot take place without violence."

In the end, the police and the organisers had cause for congratulation. Several thousand young blacks under the direction of the ANC Youth League held a mock trial of Mr de Klerk and R. F. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister and Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, of the Inkatha Freedom Party, even though they are all attending the security council debate.

But the security council is expected to ask Dr Buthe to send a special representative - probably Cyrus Vance, the former US Secretary of State - to South Africa after the meeting. Diplomats were working yesterday on a draft resolution defining the mandate of the UN envoy.

Nine African foreign ministers are to join the South African leaders in addressing the security council meeting, which was called by the Organisation of African Unity at its recent summit in Senegal. It is the first security council meeting dealing solely with South Africa since 1988.

Lawyers fear for life of Malawi dissident

FROM JUDITH MATLOFF IN JOHANNESBURG

MALAWIAN lawyers and pro-democracy activists said yesterday that they feared for the safety of Chakufwa Chihana, a Malawi dissident who disappeared after reporting to the police.

In a statement issued in Zambia, the dissidents' Interim Committee for a Democratic Alliance said: "Given the history of police killings in Malawi, we are deeply concerned for the safety of

Mrs Chihana that they had orders to take him to Zomba, 190 miles away. He has not been seen since and a police officer in Zomba said Mr Chihana had not been brought to town.

Diplomats, Mr Chihana's lawyer and pro-democracy activists also expressed fears for his safety and said he may have been re-arrested - or worse. "We do not know where he is. There is no explanation as to whether he was re-arrested," Bazuka Mhango, a lawyer, said by telephone from Blantyre, Malawi's main commercial city. "We are trying to go and see the public prosecutor who also has no information to give us," another lawyer said.

One Western diplomat said: "It appears he has been re-detained. That would not be a forward step. It is a very unsatisfactory situation." Mr Chihana, 52, is the most outspoken critic of Dr Banda, the country's self-declared president for life, who is in his 90s and has run a repressive one-party state since independence from Britain in 1964. The president jailed Mr Chihana, a trade unionist, for several years in the 1970s for opposing his autocratic tactics that have also been criticised by Western governments that have frozen aid.

Large crowds, seen to be threatening, gathered outside the Zomba magistrate's court on Monday when Mr Chihana was charged on three counts of possessing seditious material. (Reuters)



Chihana: police claim to have no information

Chakufwa Chihana and believe his life is in danger." Mr Chihana was first arrested in April on his return from Zambia. He had just been elected head of the committee by Malawi exiles challenging the one-man rule of President Banda.

Freed last weekend, Mr Chihana had gone with his wife to a police station in Lilongwe, the capital, on Tuesday to report as required by his bail conditions. The police told



Flying visit: Chris Patten, governor of Hong Kong, touring the colony's new airport site yesterday

Hong Kong airport agreement is delayed

FROM AFP IN HONG KONG

THERE is not likely to be any progress in the new round of Anglo-Chinese talks on Hong Kong's new airport that begins in Hong Kong this week. A Chinese source said a breakthrough was unlikely because China would insist that Britain should propose a

new cost-effective way of paying for the scheme that would not be a burden on the future special administrative region of Hong Kong when it reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

However, the source added: "Peking will approve some proposals on which consensus has been reached with London to prevent the airport project from being delayed."

London has warned China that any delay in approving the airport funding plan could increase the overall cost, which has already jumped to \$21.2 billion (£11 billion), an increase of 14 per cent in real terms on last year's estimate.

The main obstacle has been Peking's concern that Hong Kong's commitment to private lenders, who will provide \$2.7

billion in callable equity, could become a debt to the future special administrative region.

London and Peking eventually will resolve their differences over the project on the basis of a memorandum signed by the two governments last year, the source said, but not during the talks.

Business Times, page 19

Mediation offered in islands dispute

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

The Spratlys, a group of small islands, some little more than rocks, are the focus of increasing competition between China and her neighbours.

The possibility that there is oil beneath them is now generating such tension that the foreign ministers of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (Asean) is to try to resolve who owns the islands.

Raul Manglapus, the Philippines foreign secretary, and Blas Ople, the incoming senate foreign relations committee chairman, said security concerns in the region must be addressed and that the Asean forum was the best available. Observers see the Spratlys as the region's next flashpoint.

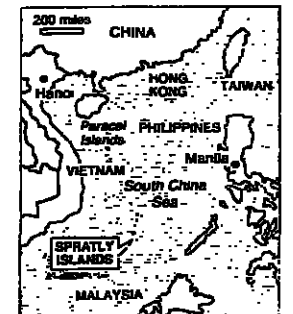
The Asean foreign ministers will meet in Manila next Tuesday and Wednesday. Their talks will be followed by two days of dialogue with the group's trading partners, America, the European Community, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea. China, Russia, Vietnam and Laos have been invited for the first time.

The meeting brings together the foreign ministers of five claimants to the Spratlys: the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei. Taiwan, which

is not an Asean member, is the other claimant. Officials believe this post-ministerial dialogue should evolve into a peace forum.

When China passed a law in March claiming sovereignty over them, tension rose sharply in the Spratlys. Last month, Peking awarded a contract to an American company to explore for oil there.

Mr Manglapus said that China's reinforcement of its



claims was "muscle flexing" to discover who might challenge for possession after Washington closes its bases in the Philippines at the end of the year.

It is in this context of having to chart a new direction in the vacuum created by the American withdrawal that security issues are on the Asean agenda for the first time in 25 years.

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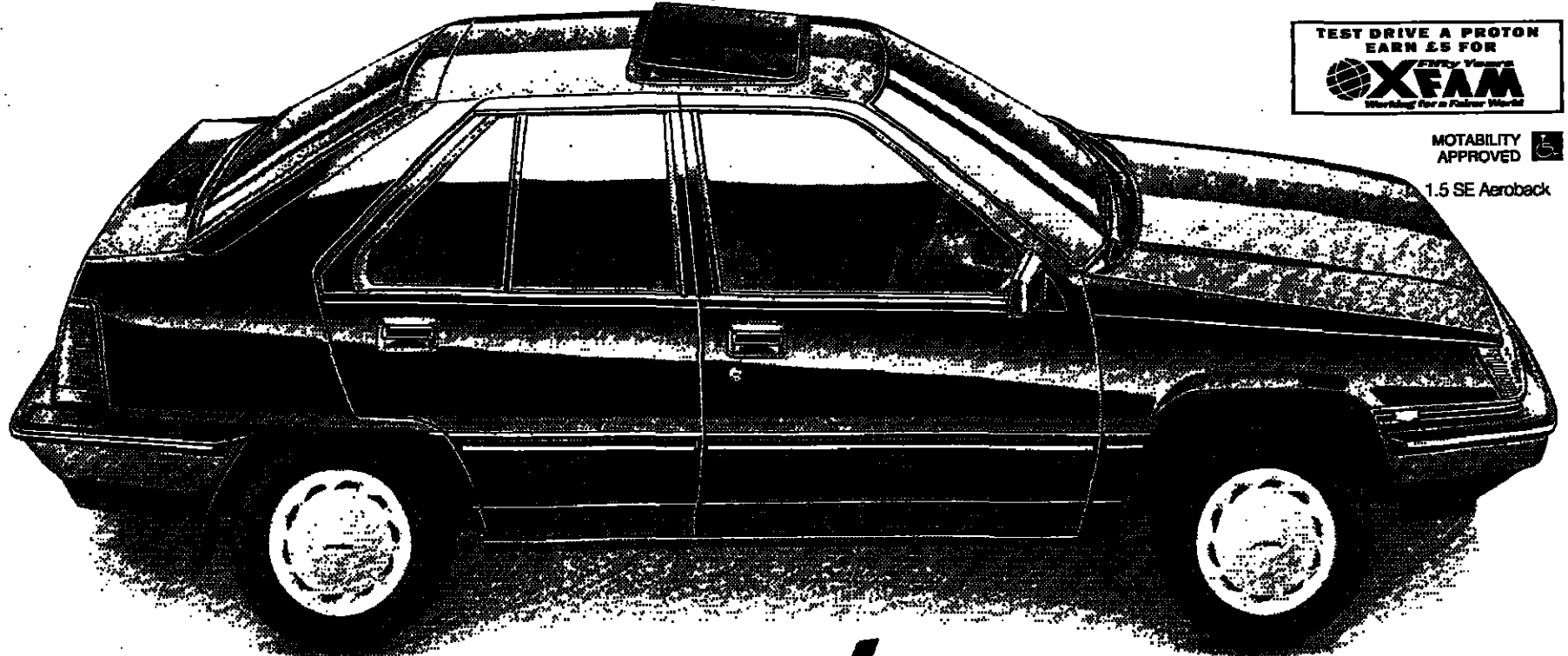
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Clinton is poised for triumphant party nomination

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN NEW YORK

BILL Clinton's long and traumatic march towards the Democratic presidential candidature was set to end triumphantly in Madison Square Garden last night with his formal nomination by Mario Cuomo, the New York governor, and the traditional roll call of states.

After a six-month primary ordeal that saw him vilified in the media, pilloried by rivals and written off by colleagues, the Arkansas governor finally emerged victorious and at the head of the most united Democratic party since the 1976 convention that set Jimmy Carter on the road to the White House.

On Tuesday night, the convention overwhelmingly approved a campaign manifesto moulded by Mr Clinton and designed to move the party decisively back towards the political mainstream, especially on economic issues.

Mr Carter himself, once reviled but now revered by a party that has lost five of the past six presidential elections, endorsed Mr Clinton enthusiastically in a convention address that also damned President Bush. The former president told reporters he believed the party had come full circle after 16 years of being divided and in hock to its liberal wing.

In a powerful and emotional speech, Jesse Jackson, liberal champion and scourge of past nominees, was reduced to an occasional coded dig at Mr Clinton. Mr Jackson had been the one real remaining threat to what *The New York Times* referred to yesterday as a "convention of almost unnatural harmony".

But nobody here forgets how Michael Dukakis left the Democrats' 1988 convention with a 17-point lead over Mr Bush, and Mr Clinton himself said: "The election looks good today, but it is not going to be easy." The Republicans would soon begin an all-out attack on him, he added. "They run down much harder than they run up."

Mr Clinton was due to meet Nelson Mandela yesterday. The African National Congress leader was in New York for a United Nations meeting, and the encounter would help to boost the nominee's weak credentials in the area of foreign policy.

Later, Jerry Brown, the former governor of California who has refused to endorse Mr Clinton, was expected to nominate himself as a means of addressing the convention, but his posturing this week has been little more than a side-



show. Mr Jackson's speech, which Mr Clinton watched from his hotel room, was an oratorical tour de force. However, the organisers of a convention designed to make the party look moderate timed it to coincide with a televised all-star baseball game and, while the delegates cheered his fiery rhetoric, they were lukewarm about most of his left-wing policy prescriptions.

After an entrance delayed for dramatic effect, the black civil rights leader immediately set minds at rest by hailing "President Bill Clinton", but thereafter his praise for the nominee was faint. He admonished him: "You have survived a tough spring that will make you stronger for the fall. With your strength, you must heal and make us better." The civil rights leader has in the past accused Mr Clinton of snubbing blacks to court white votes.

He called Mr Clinton's \$200 billion (£104 billion) plan for rebuilding America a "substantial step" in the right

direction. In a dig at Mr Clinton's recent condemnation of a rap singer's indictment of racial violence, he called rap and other black art a means of mending black people's broken lives. Speaking barely an hour after the adoption of the manifesto, he also said that politicians should adopt policies not because they were popular or would win votes but because they were right. "History will remember us not for our positioning, but for our principles," he said.

It was a night of unusual emotion. Mr Carter and Mr Jackson were preceded to the rostrum by two AIDS victims, the first ever to address an American political convention. The first was a homosexual aide to Mr Clinton, the second a woman, Elizabeth Glaser, wife of Paul Michael Glaser, the actor, who contracted the disease from a blood transfusion and passed it on to her late daughter through her breast milk and to her son in the womb.

Mrs Glaser's story reduced the convention to silence for the first time this week and many delegates to tears. "I am here because my son and I may not survive four more years of leaders who say they care but do nothing," she said.

Two Chinese students, survivors of the Tiananmen Square killings, also addressed the convention, the highlight of which will be Mr Clinton's acceptance speech tonight.

King of compromise, page 14



Party pitch: Representative Pat Schroeder throws a baseball during the Democrats' New York convention. She was drawing the crowd's attention to a game competing for television viewers

Jackson derides Quayle's family values

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

JESSE Jackson wins the prize for the Democratic convention's tallest or, perhaps, shortest story.

To illustrate how "haves" help the "have-nots" in his Tuesday night speech he recalled a visit to a North Carolina university. There, he claimed in all seriousness, he saw a 6ft 8in giant walking hand-in-hand on the campus with a 3ft female dwarf. With the help of a bench they embraced, then parted.

"What gives?" the astonished civil rights leader asked the university principal. He replied that the couple were twins. Numerous colleges had offered the giant basketball scholarships. He had chosen this one because it alone had agreed to give his sister a scholarship, too.

Mr Jackson also gets the prize for the week's most

CONVENTION NOTEBOOK

extreme analogy. His purpose was to deride Dan Quayle's cynical exploitation of family values. Jesus was not only born to a homeless couple, Mr Jackson declared, but had a single mother. "When Mary said Joseph was not the father, she was abused and questioned... It was Herod, the Quayle of his day, who put no value on the family."

Poor Mr Quayle. His recent addition of a final "e" to the word "potato" has made him the butt of a thousand jokes this week. One popular label badge has the vice-president's face obliterated by a red line and the word "Noe".

Again Mr Jackson stole the show, capitalising on Al Gore's passionate environmentalism. "In past years Republicans would always

talk about a stature gap. This time around they have a vice-president who cannot spell 'potato', while ours can spell 'chlorofluorocarbon'."

The irony of the convention is that the more the Democrats try to tailor the event for television, trying to turn it into a four-night free commercial, the less the networks show of it. Admittedly CNN has a team of 373 deployed in Madison Square Garden, but the three main networks have cut coverage to a minimum.

And who can blame them? Between two and five million more households watched *The Revenge of the Nerds* and a sitcom rerun than the convention on Monday night. The convention to date has produced so little real news that the media has begun chasing itself. One of the biggest excitement came when John Sununu, President Bush's unloved former chief of staff and

now a political chat-show host, used his media credentials to stride onto the convention floor. As the delegates catcalled, a score or more television crews mobbed Mr Sununu, who beamed.

There was another momentous event on Tuesday. Bill Clinton's daughter Chelsea, 12, was wheeled into the Intercontinental hotel with her leg bandaged. She was mobbed by television crews. Unfortunately it transpired that she was suffering from nothing worse than leg cramps from climbing the Statue of Liberty's 168 steps.

The physical state of the Clinton family could be a story, though. That morning Mr Clinton jogged in Central Park. It took him 25 minutes to do 1.75 miles, which is barely walking speed. "The governor's jogging motto is start slow and taper off," an aide said.



Pointing the way: Jesse Jackson addressing Democrats yesterday

Democrats lionise their last president

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

THE white-haired former president began: "My name is Jimmy Carter," but the humility rang false.

He had received a standing ovation when he appeared at the podium, and immediately received another. The Democratic party was out to lionise its last occupant of the Oval Office, a man who left power the butt of national derision but whose stock has risen ever since.

Mr Carter has dedicated his post-presidential life to good

works, but it appeared on Tuesday night that he had been saving his passion for the big occasion. In a packed convention hall, he attacked George Bush with a ferocity rarely displayed by a former president towards a successor.

Under Mr Bush, and before him Ronald Reagan, America had come to be seen as "more war-like than peace-loving", said Mr Carter, whose Carter Centre in Atlanta dedicates itself to conflict resolution.

America had "celebrated a great victory over tiny Grenada", financed the Contra war in Nicaragua, and killed hundreds of its friends in Panama. Following the Gulf war, President Saddam Hussein still ruled in Iraq, Kuwait was no closer to democracy, and refugees endured terrible hardship.

At the Earth summit in Rio, America "stood out as the primary obstacle to a better world". It was the "major obstacle" to a nuclear test ban.

In his work with Atlanta's poor he had learned how slum-dwellers resorted to boiling sewer water, how the ambition of young males was to own a semi-automatic, and how at schools the pregnancy rate was highest in the lowest grades.

For Bill Clinton, Mr Carter had only praise. He was a friend, a fine governor and a man of honesty and integrity who had endured and survived false and misleading attacks on his character. "He is the only candidate who can unite our government, heal our nation's wounds, face facts with courage and marshal the American people to face a difficult future with hope and confidence," he said.

Washington: Ross Perot would pull American forces out of Europe and focus his foreign policy on the Pacific and Asia, if elected to the White House, according to Paul Nitze, a former senior arms negotiator, who has dropped out of a panel advising him.

Fatigue forces Previn to quit the podium

The conductor Andre Previn, 63, has cancelled four appearances at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago because of fatigue, organisers said. A festival statement provided no other details about his condition.

Genadi Rozhdestvensky, who has been chief conductor of the BBC and Vienna symphony orchestras and the Moscow Chamber Music Theatre, will extend his residency to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on July 31 and August 1. Yakov Kreizberg will then take over.

The Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona, below, told a judge in Buenos Aires that



he is to return to professional football. The player has had to make regular appearances before the court as part of a drug rehabilitation programme. His name was being linked with the French club Marseilles yesterday.

Kripalini Baligadoo, 18, the daughter of the Mauritian high commissioner in Australia, Sri Krishna Baligadoo, died after falling down a cliff near Canberra, police said.

The actor Glenn Ford, 76, in critical condition in a Los Angeles hospital after surgery last week, has shown signs of improvement.

The rock star Axl Rose, 30, denied charges stemming from a riot at a concert in St Louis last year, and a judge in Missouri said that his group, Guns n' Roses, could begin its American tour tomorrow as scheduled. His trial has been set for October.

President Aylwin of Chile arrived in Brussels for a three-day official visit to Belgium during which King Baudouin will give a lunch for him.

The former Philippines first lady, Imelda Marcos, must reveal her family's riches before civil cases against her are dropped, according to the head of a panel in Manila trying to recover the wealth of her husband, Ferdinand Marcos, the late dictator.

The singers Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston will marry at Houston's New Jersey mansion on July 18, a spokesman for the couple said.

The former television evangelist Jim Bakker, 52, serving a sentence in Minnesota for fraud and conspiracy, says the media should do more stories on inmates and programmes to humanise the prison system. "These are just people and there are a lot of good people here," the Rochester *Post-Bulletin* quoted him as saying.

Tourist bus bombed at Luxor

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN CAIRO

FEAR that Egypt's thriving tourist industry has become a new target for Islamic extremists intensified yesterday when a suspected Muslim militant threw a petrol bomb at a tourist bus in the southern resort of Luxor.

The incident was the first of its kind and followed last month's bomb attack close to Luxor's Pharaonic temple at Karnak when two devices exploded during the sound and light show about life in ancient Thebes, a leading tourist attraction.

No injuries resulted from either attack. A government spokesman said that the bomb broke the window of the bus but did not explode. Police arrested three people.

Egypt is facing its worst upsurge of Islamic violence since the assassination of President Sadat in 1981. Parliament is now debating the introduction of draconian penalties to counter the Islamic violence, which has claimed more than 35 lives since February.

Much of the bloodshed is due to feuds between Muslims and the Christian minority. The fundamentalists' aim is to overthrow the moderate government of President Mubarak and replace it with an Iranian-style Islamic republic.

Tourism, which has revived dramatically since the slump caused by the Gulf war is one of the main sources of much needed foreign currency for Egypt's ailing economy. Even before yesterday's bus attack, some tourists in Britain and elsewhere had cancelled holidays after reading reports of the Karnak bombing.

Opposition claims overspending Kuwait faces asset sell-off

KUWAIT, whose estimated pre-Gulf war overseas assets of \$100 billion (£52 billion) have shrunk by two-thirds, is facing financial difficulties which critics allege are being exacerbated by overspending and mismanagement of huge investment portfolios.

Although the oil-rich emirate is far from broke, a growing number of Kuwaiti and Western economists fear it could be plunged into debt in a few years. The respected *Middle East Economic Survey* reported that Kuwait faces a financing gap of about \$17 billion this year "making the sale of foreign assets, and perhaps further foreign borrowing inevitable".

After angry questions at this week's session of the National Assembly, Nasr al-Rowdan, the finance minister, announced that the head of the London-based Kuwait Investment Office had been summoned home for talks with Shaikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, the crown prince, who would then issue a statement.

Responding to questions about losses in Spain and Britain, the crown prince said: "We do not want to discuss the subject here because this would not prove beneficial to the national interest."

Economists believe the oil-rich emirate could be plunged into debt within a few years, Christopher Walker writes



to bail out private banks by assuming their bad debts to Kuwaitis, many of whom are wealthy members of the ruling family who could pay themselves. Many debts date from the 1982 collapse of the unofficial secondary stock market known as Souk al-Manakh.

In the past few months, the government is reported to have authorised arms purchases and oil industry repairs of up to \$20 billion. A scheme has been passed by the national council to pay each family \$17,000 as compensation for the Iraqi invasion, totalling a further \$1.8 billion.

With the population nearly halved by the exodus caused by the war, the government is proposing to buy hundreds of empty apartments from Kuwaiti landlords, adding further to its obligations.

One Western expert said: "They are heading for problems they have not known since the oil started to flow. They will be under great pressure in the next two years."

The opposition is capitalising on the government's discomfort to back its claim that most ministers appointed since the dissolution of parliament in 1986 are incompetent. "Who paid all those billions? Who authorised all this?" demanded *Al Qabas* in a front-page editorial.

The financial troubles coincide with terrorist violence that diplomats believe is attributable to Islamic fundamentalists or to an Iraqi fifth column, the theory favoured by most Kuwaitis.

Rabin takes charge of troops laying siege to Palestinians

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Rabin, Israel's new leader, faced his first big challenge as prime minister yesterday when hundreds of troops besieged up to 3,000 Palestinian students in the West Bank.

Israeli military sources said that the former general had taken charge of the operation at An-Najah University in the Palestinian city of Nablus, where Israeli security forces sealed off the campus in a search for suspected gunmen. Contrary to his fearsome reputation when he last served as defence minister in the opening months of the intifada, Mr Rabin appeared to be treating the potentially explosive situation with some sensitivity. His caution was attributed partly to the arrival in Jerusalem next Sunday of James Baker, the US Secretary of State, who plans to launch a new peace drive for the region which could be derailed by any serious outbreaks of violence.

General Danny Rothchild, the head of the Israeli military government in the occupied territories, said: "We are making a very, very clear distinction between our wish to continue the peace talks as soon as possible and, on the other hand, not to tolerate any act of violence by any side." Students said they feared leaving the campus in case the Israelis began mass arrests. Faculty members claimed that the Israelis had refused to allow food into the university and that six female students had been taken to hospital yesterday, suffering from stress and dehydration. Journalists were barred by military order from the area.

The incident began on

Tuesday when an allegedly armed Palestinian was arrested near the campus as undergraduates gathered to elect a student council. Suspecting that armed activists were in the university, the police called in army reinforcements who ringed the campus. The authorities then imposed a curfew on the city, and announced that all students would be screened on leaving the area and that suspects would be detained.

Although witnesses confirmed that some armed activists had been spotted on campus, senior Palestinian figures viewed the military action as a provocation and questioned whether Mr Rabin was serious about wanting to make peace. Ghassan Khatib, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, said: "Our perception during Mr Rabin's speech to the Knesset on Tuesday was that he would offer hope of a real change. But we will only know for sure by judging his actions, particularly whether he stops settlement construction and improves the human rights situation in the occupied territories. The actions in Nablus are not encouraging."

Beirut: Parris Dweiz, Lebanon's foreign minister, has refused to meet Mr Baker outside Lebanon next week, saying a meeting "in any capital other than Beirut would offend national dignity. Mr Baker is due to visit Israel, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan next week. In the past, Mr Baker has met Mr Dweiz in Damascus and Cairo because of American fears that Lebanon was unsafe for such a senior official to visit. (Reuters)

THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 16 1992

Intellectuals plead with Mitterrand to recognise Vichy crimes



Pétain: still has many sympathisers

A GROUP of more than 200 intellectuals and leaders in the arts voiced outrage yesterday after President Mitterrand rejected their call that he should use today's anniversary of the biggest wartime round-up of Paris Jews to recognise officially the genocidal crimes committed by the Vichy government.

"We knew the state was dumb; now we discover it is deaf," said the Vel d'Hiv committee, a body that appealed last month to Mitterrand to do more than simply lay a wreath when he attends today's ceremony to honour the 13,000 victims of the round-up of the Velodrome d'Hiver 50 years ago. Their petition, signed by thousands of supporters, called on Mitterrand to undertake a solemn act of recognition similar to that of Willy Brandt, the former German chancellor, when he knelt at Auschwitz. Mitterrand, who was

President Mitterrand's view that Vichy crimes against the Jews are nothing to do with the present state has outraged intellectual leaders in France. Charles Bremner writes from Paris

decorated by the Vichy state before becoming a Resistance fighter, dismissed the notion of such a gesture in a television appearance on Bastille day which was widely interpreted yesterday as further evidence that, after 11 years in office, the 75-year-old president has lost touch with the mood of his fellow citizens.

"The president of the republic gives the impression of not living in the same world as his contemporaries," *Le Monde* said in a caustic review of an appearance in which Mitterrand also insisted that France's social troubles, such as the lorry drivers' strike, were mainly the product of prosperity and good government. Mitterrand's favourable rating sank

by four points in the month to 39 per cent, according to a Louis Harris poll yesterday.

Taking a more outspoken line than Mitterrand, Jacques Chirac, the Paris mayor and leader of the neo-Gaullist RPR party, spoke last night of France's "duty" to remind itself of the indelible stain inflicted on its history by those who collaborated in the mass extermination of Jews. "France, the country of light, of human rights, of the French Revolution... handed them over to the Nazis just when her holy mission was to protect them," he said. "There is an imperative necessity to bear witness, especially among the young," he added. France had now decided to look the past in the face. So

much horrifying evidence of the suffering of French Jews has appeared recently in books, films, television and the press that public opinion, particularly that of the majority born since the war, is said to favour an act of official contrition for the Vichy crimes. Support sharpened in April when a Paris court dropped charges against Paul Touvier, the only Vichy official who has come close to trial for crimes against humanity. Two others have since been charged.

Mitterrand based his refusal on a constitutional distinction. Since the crimes of Henri Philippe Pétain's regime were carried out by the collaborationist Vichy state and not the French re-

public, the republic had nothing to answer for, he said.

That logic cheered supporters of the National Front party and the strong body of sympathisers with Pétain's regime, but brought dismay yesterday from those who believed the time had come for France to confront officially the long-denied truth that French officials carried out or abetted the transportation of 76,000 Jews to German death camps. Three per cent survived.

The Vichy state may have had another name, the committee said in response. "But it was served by French administrators, French judges, French policemen who agreed on mass to swear allegiance to Pétain, to execute inhuman orders."

The president could still solemnly proclaim the truth, it added, without committing any disloyalty to the republic. "Who better than the presi-

dent could put an end to the official silence which has lasted 50 years since one of the most sinister pages in the history of France?"

The committee, which includes Régis Debray, Michel Piccoli, Pierre Boulez, Jacques Derrida, Jean Lacouture, Maxime Le Forestier, Guy Bedos and Roland Castro, asked Mitterrand to reconsider his decision before attending today's ceremony at the site of the now demolished Velodrome d'Hiver on the left bank.

As Mitterrand was assailed by criticism, the Socialist party that he founded and took to power yesterday shed Jean-Pierre Chevènement, its leading left-wing dissident, from its ruling body in preparation for the referendum on Maastricht to be held in September and general elections next March.

M Chevènement, who resigned as defence minister

last year because he objected to the Gulf engagement, had been expected to leave the executive bureau of the party since he adopted a position fiercely opposed to the Maastricht treaty, calling it a capitalist's charter and a recipe for recession.

The leader of the Socialist left wing and an influential figure in the early Mitterrand years, M Chevènement has been at ever greater odds with the leadership as the party abandoned its old collectivist doctrines and moved into the centre of the political spectrum. Last weekend, embroiled in a new bout of financial scandal, it rallied behind Michel Rocard, a centrist and old opponent of Mitterrand. M Chevènement said that he would be free to express himself on Europe as a citizen rather than as a Socialist official, although he remains a member of the party.

Croatians die as howitzer shells slam into stadium

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

IN A dramatic counterpoint to the London peace talks on Bosnia at least eight Croatian soldiers were killed when howitzer shells smashed into a stadium in the town of Slavonki Brod yesterday. A police officer in the town said the shells were fired from neighbouring Bosnia across the Sava river and had clearly been aimed at the stadium. "The Serbs knew they were there," the officer said. A doctor at the Slavonki Brod hospital said 35 people were seriously wounded in the bombardment. Nine had severe head injuries and were in a critical condition. Mean-

while, at precisely 8am today Captain Ingo Splietstößer, commander of the German destroyer Bayern, will order his 3,540-tonne ship to steer into the Adriatic to join the hunt for sanctions busters along the coast of what used to be Yugoslavia. His ship will be only a small part of the seven-nation Nato fleet assembled in the Adriatic. The fleet's job could well be done without the Bayern being there. But from the moment the captain gives his order, Germany's role in the world will change.

The Bayern's mission represents the first time that a German military unit will have been involved in any military operation, other than humanitarian or for training purposes, since the end of the second world war.

Volker Rühe, the defence minister, said after the cabinet approved the mission yesterday, that this was "a new situation" for his country.

The battle continued to rage across Bosnia yesterday. Muslims and Serbs clashed in the north east and east while Serbs and Croats fought pitched battles across Bosnia's strategic northern corridor. Sarajevo itself was relatively quiet.

In Sarajevo the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees issued a trenchant statement accusing Serb leaders of being "unresponsive" to requests by the organisation to send a mission to the besieged eastern town of Gorazde.

Gorazde has been surrounded by Serb forces for three months and the situation there is now critical. The UNHCR statement said that its usual population of 20,000 was swollen by up to 50,000 refugees from other predominantly Muslim towns which have recently fallen to the Serbs.

In Belgrade it was announced that the newly elected Yugoslav prime minister, the Serbian-born Californian businessman Milan Panic, would probably leave to meet the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali in New York tomorrow.

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Court will give abortion pill ruling

Washington: An American woman who is seven weeks pregnant filed an emergency plea with the Supreme Court to force the government to return the French abortion pills it seized from her.

Lawyers for Leona Bente, from California, asked Justice Clarence Thomas to overrule an appeal court's decision and let her have the controversial abortion pill, RU-486, which is banned in the United States. Judge Thomas, the newest and one of the most conservative members of the court, could rule at any time or he could refer the matter to the full court.

Ms Bente's lawyers urged the Supreme Court to act quickly. "Ms Bente is perilously close to the outer limit of the medically appropriate timeframe for taking RU-486," her lawyer said.

Abortion has become an emotive issue in the election campaign, with President Bush opposing abortion and Bill Clinton, the Democrat, supporting a woman's right to choose. (Reuters)

Truckers gain

Paris: France will introduce legislation this year to improve lorry drivers' working conditions and punish violations of the labour code by road haulage employers, Jean-Louis Bianco, the transport minister said. (Reuters)

Plane crashes

Sana: All 58 people on board a Yemeni military aircraft were killed when it crashed in the desert near Aden. Sixteen military policemen and members of the navy, six crew members and 36 civilians died. (Reuters)

Jet enquiry

Vienna: Thai investigators have confirmed that the crash of a Thai Air passenger jet over Thailand last year was caused by the accidental engagement of reverse thrust. The Austrian transport ministry said here. (Reuters)

Dolphin toll

Paris: Hundreds of dolphins are being slaughtered in the Mediterranean because South Korean fishing boats are trapping them in 70-mile long drift nets, according to an oceanographic centre in Antibes. (Reuters)



Warring sides: Haris Silajdzic, Bosnia's Muslim foreign minister, left, and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, held separate meetings at Christie's in London yesterday with Lord Carrington. The European Community's peace negotiator was trying to revive the talks

Brussels backs off on rebate

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission agreed last night to avoid giving any commendation to European Community governments about changing the rebate that Britain receives on its payments to the EC's £44 billion a year budget.

The commissioners decided to confine their report, commissioned by national governments, to a technical description of the rebate's complex workings and a short list of options for simplifying and adjusting the formula. The discount is worth about £2 billion a year. Germany has been pressing for the rebate to be reduced when the next five-year EC budget is settled, but Britain insists that it should be maintained under the new budget.

The final text of the report will not be agreed until next week. Although some Commission officials suggested a lower rebate so that Britain might be forced to concede on other disputed parts of the budget, caution has won.

Travelling cockpit class in Russia

Robert Seely reports from Moscow on how to obtain a seat on a fully booked flight — as long as cash changes hands between pilot and passenger

FOR frequent travellers in the former Soviet Union who find themselves stranded at airports without a ticket, there is always a spare seat available on flights in cases of emergency: in the cockpit.

For less than the taxi fare from Heathrow to central London, Aeroflot captains who earn the equivalent of £15 a month, will, after a little negotiation, share their cabin.

Normally the best person from whom to get a late but legally acquired ticket is the airport's duty *nachalnik* (boss). If that does not work, then a meeting with the plane's officers is the only answer if a long and uncomfortable wait in a grimy airport is to be avoided. To track them down, however, you need to slip through the check-in desk and security — possible, but tricky without a ticket. Once on the tarmac life becomes easier. Last Friday I negotiated my seat on a Kiev-bound plane after chatting with the flight engineer beneath the nose of his TU154 aircraft. I was, I said, a correspondent, a word which works wonders here. Would I pay dollars or roubles, he wanted to know. Whichever was preferable, I said, and we

agreed a price equivalent to £20.

During the 30-minute wait for take-off, I chatted to the captain. Many of Aeroflot's pilots still speak about the former Soviet Union with fondness. "Look at the violence in Moldova or in the Caucasus, look how people live in Russia and Ukraine. We used to have a union, now we are fighting each other," said the captain, a Ukrainian raised in Kazakhstan. He asked, for obvious reasons not to be identified — accepting "gifts" is technically a sackable offence.

Flying "cockpit class" also brings you something else rarely encountered on international flights in the Commonwealth of Independent States: food. It may not be much by Western standards — boiled chicken, biscuits, a choice of bread (black or white) and tea — but it comes with something prized as a luxury item in the hard times people here endure: butter. Our crew

counted themselves lucky. Aeroflot's in-flight service had prepared them six slices.

The best established air route for striking a deal when Aeroflot has exhausted the ticket supply is between Moscow and Tbilisi. Two other cities, Yerevan and Baku, are also fertile ground for last-minute arrangements. The Caucasian peoples, with their relative wealth, clan network and sophisticated black market, can still afford the increased prices Aeroflot now charges. By comparison the average Slav can rarely afford to pay up to half his monthly salary for a one-way ticket.

Consequently, for all routes to the Caucasus, the traditional method of bribes and back-handers, *na lyevy* in Russian ("on the left"), is alive and well. However, many of the ground staff, keen to augment their salaries, double-book seats. The effect is not to oil the wheels of capitalism here but to add to the chaos.

On a flight to Baku a month ago, one unpleasant Mafia-type, dressed in tracksuit, moccasins and stubble, argued furiously with the Aeroflot crew who wanted to throw him off the plane because his ticket was out of date. He had, he said, already paid two bribes of 500 roubles to get on the flight. Two burly Moscow policemen boarded but thought better of arresting him and risking an ugly incident with a plane-load of hostile Azerbaijanis, even after the man had started to thump a stewardess. The plane left an hour later with the villain of the piece firmly ensconced in the rear loo and refusing to budge.

The Yerevan to Moscow route must take pride of place in the chaos stakes. Since Azerbaijan imposed oil embargoes, flights to and from the Armenian capital have become spasmodic and permanently overcrowded. The loos are regularly occupied as seating and standing spaces.

On one recent flight, passengers complained of a constant thumping in the fuselage. The captain walked down the aisles, kicked aside the carpet and opened a locker beneath him — whereupon two Armenian stowaways emerged.

Germany's debt-burdened railways are to be privatised over the next decade, the cabinet agreed yesterday. The intention is to finance a restructuring of the system with the help of private investment and motorway tolls on lorries.

Günther Krause, the transport minister, said he hoped the necessary legislation could be passed by the middle of next year leading to a merger between the East and West German systems in 1994. To encourage private investors the government means to take over the railways' debts of DM55 million (£19.3 million).

The government has also agreed on a DM493 billion transport plan for the next 20 years, which for the first time involves spending more money on the railway than on roads. The plan includes spending DM108 billion on 1,983 miles of high-speed track and DM99 billion on 1,491 miles of motorway.

Privatisation is necessary for the restructuring to begin because under the German constitution, railway workers are civil servants who cannot be made redundant. Since the West German company wants to shed 30,000 jobs and the bureaucratic former East German railway system needs to get rid of some 86,000 employees, the constitution will have to be amended before anything can happen.

The government has convinced the opposition Social Democrats and the railway union that the plan for forcing traffic off the roads will, in the end, create many more jobs on the railways.

Assuming that the proposals are passed by the Bundestag next summer as planned, the merger of the two systems will follow, leading to the creation of three private companies. One will be responsible for passenger transport, one for freight and the third for track maintenance.

Germany to sell off railways

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

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Cossacks spur capitalist and communist passions

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW



Steppe warriors: Cossacks were renowned for their bravery and horsemanship

WERE the Cossacks practitioners of an early and noble form of socialism, or pioneers of the free market? In Russia's mounting ideological struggle, the question is anything but academic.

It is a sign of these patriotic times that hardly anybody in Moscow questions the desirability of reviving the caste of fighting peasants who in the tsarist era used to defend the empire's wilder reaches in return for generous grants of land. Everyone, in short, pays lip service to the idea of recreating the "Cossack way of life" in the plains of southern Russia where the warriors had their heartland.

But the Cossacks, who were split down the middle during the Russian civil war and later faced ruthless re-

pression from the victorious Bolsheviks, are again divided over what that way of life means. What is not in doubt is that every household in a Cossack village was entitled to a share of whatever land had been allocated to the community as a whole. This share could be bequeathed to one's warrior's son but not sold to outsiders.

As the "red" wing of the movement sees it, this made the Cossack community something not too different from that old Soviet institution, the collective farm. Their "white" counterparts retort by emphasising the degree of independence which each smallholder enjoyed, and they prefer to compare the Cossack village to a joint stock company.

President Yeltsin's government drew heavily on the advice of the "white" Cossacks in wording a presidential decree on reviving the community which was issued last month.

The Russian parliament, as one would expect from a body elected under quasi-communist rules, turned to the "red" Cossacks to help them prepare a law that is intended to govern the community's future on a longer-term basis. Reformist officials have reacted with alarm to a draft bill which, as they saw it, gave huge powers to communal institutions that barely differed from Soviet ones.

This law means that there will be no private sale and purchase of land in one of the richest parts of Russia.

One government adviser said. "Reviving the Cossack way of life will also mean removing any role for women in public affairs, and upgrading the role of the church, whose blessing is needed for every collective decision," the official added.

On the face of it, the draft law's guarantees of local autonomy, and of an independent role for the Cossacks in the Russian armed forces, look fairly generous. Yet they were not quite generous enough for the "red" Cossacks. The political colour of the Cossacks thus joins the economy, the media, foreign policy and the handling of ethnic disputes on the list of flashpoints in relations between the government and the parliament in Moscow.

Bernard Levin

All dogs are dangerous, and absurdly weak laws ensure they continue to bite people

Two years ago I had a correspondence with Mrs Veronica Lynch; her child had been torn to pieces — the cliché was for once the literal truth — by two rottweilers. Another child, a friend of Kellie Lynch, had tried heroically to drag the dogs off, but failed, and ran screaming for help, though Kellie was by then beyond help.

There was a lot of something-must-be-done, and even more nothing-was-ever-since, there has been a succession of similar stories, accompanied by horrific photographs. It is estimated that every year in this country more than 50,000 children are bitten by dogs; not all of the attacks lead to substantial injury, of course (though many children acquire a phobic horror of dogs), but a dossier that has recently been sent to me, including a sheaf of newspaper photographs of dreadful scars and deformities caused by dogs, makes clear that our absurdly weak legislation in this field has achieved nothing of significance, while a thousand attacks a week continue to be recorded.

Whenever a child is savaged (dogs bite adults too, you know), fingers are pointed at a particular breed, not necessarily the breed that caused the latest tragedy. It is agreed all round that rottweilers, say, or doberman pinschers, or pit-bulls, have no place in a society like ours, and the country must be rid of them. Humanely of course. Nothing happens until the next dead child is recorded, and the same song is sung, with the same refrain. This is England: when a dog mauls a child a petition is frequently circulated, its terms being a demand that the dog should not be put down, and — this is England, as I said — it is frequently repealed. No doubt some of these lovely-dovey doggy-woggies are recidivists, or simply acquire a taste for young human flesh; either way, they may bite another child, and the only consequence if they do is that the petition to save the dog has very slightly fewer names on it.

But this is England, I insist, and there is another very English trait, very relevant to this subject: start a group, and of course give it an acronymical name. That is how Panda came into existence; its full name is Parents Against Needless Dog Attacks, and good luck to it and its members. Panda has the greatest contempt for our dog laws (come to think of it, so have the dogs), and the organisation's aim is to see enacted some real legislation: the ideal law, in Panda's eyes, would include a country-wide dog register, the compulsory muzzling, when out of doors, of breeds designated aggressive (mind you, the scar on my own arm, acquired at the age of seven, got there from an innocent-looking spaniel), compulsory third-party insurance on dogs and their damage, an age limit no lower than 16 years of age for any person to be in charge of an aggressive-designated animal, instruction in dog awareness in schools, and tight legal controls on dog breeders.

Some of these solutions are impracticable, and some instruction in the schools might well breed an unnecessary fear in many children. But I can see no objection to the compulsory muzzling, not only of the designated dogs, but all dogs capable of doing harm to human beings. We have all smiled in Venice on seeing a chihuahua trotting along with a minuscule muzzle on its minuscule snout, but we give thanks rather than smile when an albatross goes by wearing a stout leather muzzle, tightly fixed.

Of all the aspects of this country which foreigners, particularly European for-

eigners, find incomprehensible, is our attitude to dogs. The Italians are the most bewildered; to a man, and even more to a woman, they are convinced that the English, especially the upper classes, prefer dogs to children, a supposition which has an appalling ring of truth in it. (Well, they don't send their dogs away from the age of nine, for a start.)

Much more powerful in the anthropomorphic tendency, the English talk to their dogs, not just as though the dogs can understand, but as though the dogs are replying. The foreigners, this time the French, believe that the English keep dogs in order that the dogs should fawn on them, so as to make the human beings (men, mostly) feel important and powerful. It is difficult to deny with any real conviction that there is such a tendency, no doubt subconscious but none the less real. Making a pet an equal is a silly thing to do, and suggests very powerfully that the owner has not fully grown up. That would not matter in itself, but what the half-adult forgets at the peril of others is that a cat, a goldfish, a budgerigar, a white mouse or a teddy bear may designate the owner as childish, but nobody gets hurt. When the pet-equal is a dog, children can easily get their faces chewed off. And the child-adults are a greater danger: Panda should add to its legislative claims a fine of £1,000 for anyone saying of a dog, "But he wouldn't hurt a fly."

The Dangerous Dogs Act is supposed to "ban" pit-bulls, but under the same law the owners of rottweilers are exempt.

Dogs specifically bred to fight are not approved (though how a growing dog bred to fight can be distinguished from one that is just fighting it is difficult to see). The courts are empowered to order a muzzle on a dog that might be dangerous, though that in practice means that it has already attacked someone.

The niceties of the legislation, and the Kennel Club lobby, do not deal with what is actually happening, which is that (I have the official figures) one hospital in Walsall alone recorded 610 attacks by dogs in the year ending February 1992. The trouble starts with the very title of the legislation: the Dangerous Dogs Act, which promotes the meaningless division between dogs that are dangerous and those that are not. The truth is that every dog which is big enough and strong enough to hurt a human being is a dangerous dog, and should be recognised as such.

That does not mean that all dogs should be put down. But it does mean that the legislation is inadequate. And some of the members of Panda could tell the Kennel Club and the Home Office a thing or two about how the group came into being. It was when Veronica Lynch met Terry Moseley. She was still mourning her dead child; he has a young son who was attacked by a 10-stone mastiff that dragged him by the arm, shaking him so violently that the bones in his right arm snapped, and the wound was so great that the bones could be seen through the blood and tissue. The dog, of course, had not been designated as dangerous.

Give a dog a bad name... the old saw comes to mind. But it is usually in the form of exculpation. Perhaps we should start using it literally.

Panda: Heath Court, 135-139 Wrythe Lane, Carshalton, Surrey. (Telephone: 0922 649170, 0482 25811, and 081-644 4171.)



...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

The 1980s saw the growth of the swanky supermarket, and everyone seemed to succumb. Where once people at dinner parties had spent time comparing the new Howard Brenton with the new David Hare, they now compared the new Waitrose with the new Marks & Spencer. Overnight, arguments over differences in social perspective were dropped for arguments over differences in fromage frais.

A couple of years ago, a vast new Sainsbury's was built near us in Suffolk. I tried to hold out for a while, but I soon found myself going there more and more, becoming an expert in all the available varieties of soy sauce, noodles and tropical juices. One of the joys of such supermarkets is that they provide instructions for even the simplest dishes, telling you how long to keep the leg of lamb in the oven, at what temperature, and so on, only just stopping short of telling you how to hold a knife and fork. Before long, they will print the instruction, "slice downwards and spread finely with butter. CAUTION: do NOT slice own fingers", on the back of unsliced loaves.

This molly-coddling, like so many aspects of a nanny society, is to be welcomed. But when I visited Sainsbury's last Saturday I found myself confronted by a disturbing innovation. Outside, in the area next to the trolleys, cheery people were handing out free cards and leaflets.

I took this to be some new

sales promotion: "How To Get The Most From Your Stir-Fry" for instance, or "The Joy of British Wines", so I eagerly pocketed it. As I was passing through the first aisle on my way to the soy sauce selection, I took a look at the card, thinking to gain a tip or two. "I WOULD LIKE TO HELP SOMEONE TO LIVE AFTER MY DEATH," it said. It was a donor card. This brought me down to earth with a jolt: intimations of mortality are rare along the pasta and sauces aisle of a supermarket, and are usually only awakened by the odd runaway trolley or collapsing pile of tortellini.

On the reverse side of the donor card there was a little "delete as appropriate" section. In supermarkets such sections tend to be reserved for competition forms in which one is required to list one's reasons (in order of importance) for wishing to visit the new Euro Disney. Occasionally there are tick-the-box lists saying "this product is suitable for homebaking/microwaving/freezing" and so on. But the donor card was rather more graphic.

"I request that after my death," it began, "A, my kidneys, B, my heart, C, my liver, D, my pancreas be used for transplantation, or E, any part of my body be used for the treatment of others." Underneath it said "Delete as appropriate".

The additional pamphlet, which I had imagined would contain a list of the ten most popular cuts of New Zealand

lamb, with handy hints for gravy, instead listed the different cuts from one's own body that might be of use to another human being, with handy diagrams locating just where they could all be found. On the opposite side, questions that might cause anxiety to shoppers were removed? "I WILL BE DEAD WHEN MY ORGANS ARE REMOVED?" were answered in the most straightforward manner possible ("Yes").

It took quite some courage to negotiate the fresh-meat aisle after that. I can tell you, I found myself going for the less identifiable dishes, sticking to mince, barbecue kebabs and suchlike. Even then the words of Dame Edna Everage kept ringing in my ears. "The trouble with donor kebabs," she once said, "is that one's never quite sure who the donor was." As I walked around the supermarket, the assistants' uniforms took on a strangely surgical quality, the trolleys had a hospital air to them, and I found myself eyeing suspiciously under-managers wearing gloves and carrying strange implements, ostensibly for pricing.

This morning, in the safety of my own home, I filled in my donor card, ticking the whole shooting-match, from kidneys to liver. I will try to keep it in my jacket pocket at all times, but I might just leave my jacket in the car during my visits to Sainsbury's. After all, it is still nice to think of supermarkets as places to go when you want more kidneys, hearts and livers, not fewer.

A portrait of Bill Clinton, the Democrats' choice for the presidency



One more heave: Clinton's eloquence and potentially wide voter appeal is not in doubt, but he still has to prove he is more than a comfortable political voice

An end to "foolish traditions" and "expensive ceremonies" was a promise made to the Democratic convention by Franklin Roosevelt 60 years ago. As Bill Clinton's advisers struggle to keep disaster at bay this week, they can be forgiven for wondering when the whole unwieldy folly of Madison Square Garden itself will join the top hat and the Tammany Hall barons in the pages of party history.

Roosevelt's promise is high in the campaigner's minds because Governor Clinton has been suffering through the past in order to assemble the presidential nomination speech he delivered this morning. While his surrogates have been busy stifling dissent in the sweat-filled sports arena, Mr Clinton has been sitting back in an Intercontinental Hotel armchair surrounded by great acceptance texts of the 20th century, even the video versions.

How will he compare with FDR, JFK and LBJ? Almost every newspaper and television commentator told him he had to give the convention the "speech of his life". With 30 minutes of well-chosen words he was to cast off for ever his stained reputation from the primaries and come out as the man who will be president. Even after a week of such well-drafted publicity for the party, that was a tall order.

One aide put it this way as he picked his path among the mess of crushed stars and stripes: "What have we done in New York? We've introduced some young people to the tuba. We've reminded some old-timers that Aretha Franklin is still alive. Apart from that, we have mostly just avoided catastrophe. There has to be a better way."

When Roosevelt spoke of the foolishness of his party he was not talking about gay and lesbian groups, or the other circus acts that liked to dominate conventions even then. His

All hail, the king of compromise

Peter Stothard on the candidate who found a middle way

target was the tradition that the nominated presidential candidate should not even address the convention but remain away from the hurly-burly, in feigned ignorance of the offer, until he received the official white envelope a few weeks later.

In those days it was the party that delivered presidential victories. The candidate was considered a conduit through which the power of the big bosses would flow. But Roosevelt had a personal message for the party. He had to prove to sceptics that his physical disability would not stop him from waging a vigorous campaign. He had to take his own command of a party which he was about to lead in wholly new paths. He needed to speak.

The unprecedented address — in which Roosevelt first used the phrase "New Deal", which he had borrowed from Mark Twain — was a more radical departure from the old ways than anything Bill Clinton has done this week. The stage set at Madison Square Garden has been wondrous at for its curvaceous lines and giant divided video-screens. To have Aretha Franklin sing "The Star Spangled Banner" was judged a triumph. But, for all that effort, Mr Clinton's speechwriters have a tough task ahead.

Most Americans have little idea of the man who wants to be their president. In the 19th century such ignorance may not have mattered. Americans were

little consulted about the character of their leaders. Now that they are consulted, they have redefined the word "character" so that it can fit inside the short attention span of the modern mind. The result: according to the new political lexicography, Mr Clinton's "character" is that he has "cheated" on his wife, "cheated" his way out of Vietnam war service and has never done a day's non-political work.

There is a degree of truth to all those charges but, if character is the issue in this election, they do not make up even the lightest character sketch. A recent poll in Pennsylvania showed that voters see Governor Clinton's background as rich, louché and lecherous. The truth is that Governor Clinton was brought up in Hope, Arkansas, a rundown town near the Texas border whose name is its richest asset by far. His father was dead before he was born. His stepfather was an alcoholic who abused his mother, and his brother became a drug addict.

Last week, in an attempt to create a "log-cabin to White House" legend the candidate led reporters to his old home. It was later described as "potentially comfortable but needing a bit of work". The message to this week's delegates is that the hungry background helped create today's hungry politician. Speakers have been told to make the

same point themselves and several have done so. But the tabloid image of a Rhodes scholar, born in the fast lane of life and accelerating ever since, will be hard to dispel.

Bill Clinton's political character is well suited to the tenor of the times. He is a conciliator and compromiser with almost no ideological core. If Clintonism were ever to exist, it would describe the art of picking a la carte from his favourite policy menus. In Arkansas he has compromised so much that the simple possession of power — even at 45 he is the longest-serving governor in the country — has become the most clearly defined attribute of his being.

Mr Clinton heads a party which, by high political skills, he has forced to follow just such a compromising path. But voters are deeply distrustful of all politicians and Mr Clinton is wholly and solely a politician. His speech might have contained more answers than any listener had questions; but he is talking at a time when faith is so low that any words from anyone can make a difference.

There is no mystery why he has read the "New Deal" speech with such care. Roosevelt, too, was addressing a party and a country that had lost hope in the old and was looking for something new. A number of parallels offer themselves, such as praise for the newly rehabilitated last Democratic winner — Jimmy Carter standing in for

Woodrow Wilson. There can be attacks on "trickle down" Republican economics, or "leak through" economics as Roosevelt described it. And there is the "new covenant". Mr Clinton's personal addition to the language of novelty, a symbol of what he hopes will be a partnership between himself and the American people.

The Clinton covenant is a series of exchanges designed to match the national mood. He offers student grants in return for community service after graduation, welfare payments related to willingness to work. He rejects the principles of big government and asks that individuals and communities take back lost responsibility.

The doubts about Bill Clinton are not whether any particular piece of his programme will work. The worry among hesitant voters is whether it is more than talk. In the worst of the Great Depression, Roosevelt attacked those "nominal Democrats who squint at the future with their faces turned towards the past". Governor Clinton, who may be tempted to leave the dirty work of unity to subordinates, needs to do no less.

This has seemed to be a good week for the Democrats. Television viewers have turned away in enormous numbers but enough have stayed to make the union efforts worthwhile. The lack of unexpected events or public conflict did not keep the cameras away this time.

There are doubts, however, about how often the trick can be repeated. Bill Clinton can talk eloquently and movingly, but his speech was always unlikely to be the path-breaking event his own successors will study. If Ross Perot's technological wizardry can achieve a "convention" that involves more people, is more spontaneous and is more directly aimed at delivering a television message, this convention may be the last hurrah for the tired rhetoricians, tambourines and tubas.

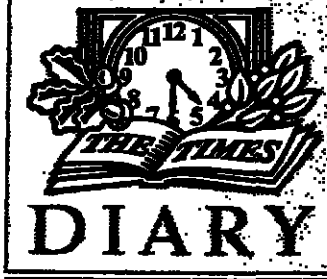
Peers and poor relations

SOME of the loudest voices raised against the MPs' vote to give themselves a 38 per cent rise in allowances belong to their colleagues in the House of Lords. Working peers must wait until next month for a measure rise in their own allowances, out of which they are expected to meet all secretarial costs and even postage, which MPs receive free.

Last year the peers' daily subsistence allowance went up £3 to £29 — the secretarial allowance is also £29 a day. Similarly small rises are expected this year.

The large number of recently retired MPs to arrive in the Lords, led by Lady Thatcher, are finding the lack of resources hard to take. Rumours have swept the red leather benches that the former prime minister is demanding a suite of three offices from which to work, although her assistants deny the suggestion. "She has not asked or applied for anything," says a spokeswoman. Pressure for a suitably grand base, however, has come from Lady Thatcher's supporters in the upper house, who are shocked that last week she was spotted dictating letters in a corridor.

Not a single one of the new peers, including Lord Weatherill, the former Speaker, has so far been allocated even a broom cupboard. Lord Hesketh, the Tory chief whip with responsibility for the accommodation, refuses to discuss the matter. "He won't talk about that," his office insisted yesterday, but Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, the outgoing leader of the Labour peers, is more forthcoming. "Jim Callaghan is a former prime minister, and he shares a room with four other peers. People come to see him from all



over the world and he has nowhere to receive them. It seems to some of us that the MPs are doing a lot better than we are."

Rights, what rights?

FOR an organisation that prides itself on human rights, the United Nations has left its own workers singularly unimpressed. They are planning industrial action in protest at their conditions, which they feel fall far short of the standards required of an organisation that lectures sovereign states on how to treat their subjects.

UN staff from all over the world will gather in Britain for a conference next week and plan to disrupt the proceedings in a protest over, among other things, their pension rights. They will begin with a filibuster followed by a rally along the Albert Embankment. One employee says: "If we don't get satisfaction we will storm the barricades. Talk about human rights is hypocrisy." And who is paying for the trip to London? The imperial power of the UN, of course.

The Royal Shakespeare Company is covering up over its latest production, Columbus and the Discovery of Japan. The opening scene shows Jonathan Hyde, as Columbus, naked and spread-

eagled on a revolving circle, a reference to Leonardo's famous drawing. After the furore over the English Shakespeare Company's posters for Macbeth, portraying Fuseli's three naked witches, the RSC has deemed discretion the better part of artistic verisimilitude. Newspaper shots of the show depict Hyde clad in boxer shorts. "He thought it would be better if he wore underwear for the photographs," says Cameron Duncan for the RSC. "Rest assured, when it opens next week Jonathan will not be wearing anything."

Heartbreak hotel

NO WONDER newspapers yesterday reported they had failed to break the security cordon around the London hotel of Dr Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs. They went to the wrong hotel. Stories declaring that the Carlton Tower in Knightsbridge was refusing to put calls through to the Bosnian delegation, "I am used to coming under enemy fire in Bosnia, I did not expect it in London. I would have been delighted to have taken any calls from newspaper reporters. I never made any secret of the hotel I am in," said Karadzic from the Langham hotel, where he had been booked in by EC staff.

Karadzic, a Sarajevo psychiatrist, says he was even more perplexed by the assertion that he has an escort car packed with security guards. "I went to see Lord Carrington at Christie's in a Hertz hire-car, a Volvo. I was all alone but it was pure luxury. I have to drive a Lada at home."

Street of shame

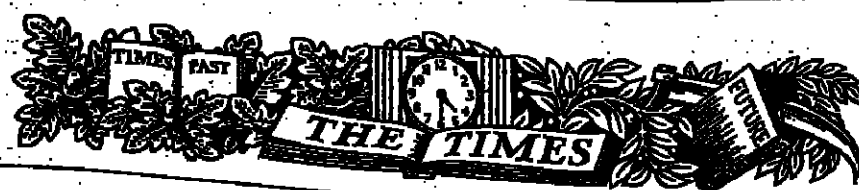
THE ART world's renowned summer party in Mayfair's Cork Street this week went with less than a

swing owing to the closure of some of its most eminent doors. Leslie Waddington, a leading figure among art dealers, kept his three galleries in the street which he owns conspicuously shut. Disappointed party-goers convinced themselves that absent staff were all at the stag night of Tim Taylor, soon to marry Lady Helen Windsor, and who works at the galleries. But Waddington insists he decided not to open after the adverse publicity caused by over-enthusiastic revellers at the last jamboree. "I decided then I would not open even if press ganged. The party is no asset to the street and attracts the wrong sort of people," he says.

Many are called but few find their way into the lingua franca. The new edition of Collins Concise English Dictionary, published today, not only gives first-time entries to veggieburger, planker and

What does Kate Adie mean? She means well, I suppose

acid house, but also lists real names such as Kate Adie, Farina Whitbread, A.S. Byatt, Madonna, Barbara Cartland and Ruth Rendell. "Their names have become part of the language," says Marion Watkins, managing editor. "They deserve their places just as much as Essex Man."



OFF THE MARK

Today's meeting of the German Bundesbank could affect the British economy far more than any meeting of the British cabinet or the Bank of England or Conservative backbenchers. Such is the dubious pleasure of membership of Europe's exchange rate mechanism under its present management.

The heads of Germany's powerful central bank will gather to consider a rise in interest rates. They may settle for some "technical" measures to tighten policy, but the message will be the same. German interest rates will not come down this year and may fall only a little next year. For Britain this means that the recession will continue or at best turn into a recovery hardly worth the name.

The time has surely come for even the most ardent supporters of the ERM to acknowledge that German reunification has put an otherwise balanced system out of kilter. Reunification has peculiarly affected the German economy, most notably by increasing the money supply and inflation. Whether high interest rates constitute the right medicine for Germany is a subject of intense dispute within that country. What must be beyond dispute is that policies to ease the integration of former East Germany into the West are not necessarily those best suited to aid the recovery of employment, investment and economic activity in the rest of Europe, and certainly not in Britain.

Thus are the evils of rigid currency markets exposed. Nobody can seriously claim that the British economy is so bloated, so undisciplined, so inflation-prone as to require further doses of monetary contraction. Both the prime minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer are hamstrung, forced to issue ever more frantic statements to shore up the pound, like Labour ministers in the 1960s. Yet what can they do? So much political capital has been invested in ERM membership that Britain cannot realistically leave it, or even behave fast and loose within it. The ghosts of Montagu Norman and Stafford Cripps stalk Downing Street. Any weakening of sterling would damage the credibility of economic policy and of the British government at large.

Nor is it realistic to suggest that the mark leaves the ERM, even temporarily. It is the

rock to which European monetary policy is now fastened. What might be proposed is that the mark be realigned, appreciating against the other currencies. The ERM was never designed to be a system of fixed exchange rates. Since it came into force in 1979, it has seen many realignments, especially in the early years. There has been no effective realignment since 1987 because Europe's economies were ostensibly converging in the late 1980s. This convergence has come to a halt with the onset of world recession coupled with the timing of German unification.

While Germany has experienced an unsustainable boom, Britain is suffering the longest recession since the war. Currency realignment would not guarantee that British interest rates fall below Germany's, any more than lower interest rates would guarantee recovery — though they would be a lifesaver to many companies. But a realignment would improve Britain's terms of trade with Germany and itself tighten German monetary policy, thereby reducing the need for higher German interest rates.

Countries that would benefit most from realignment are most hostile to it. The Germans are not opposed in principle, if only because Chancellor Kohl is tired of being blamed for the British recession and the French economic malaise. The fiercest opponent is France, whose aim has long been to match the performance of Germany. Britain is publicly opposed to a devaluation of the pound but would have much to gain from that version of devaluation that would be implied by a revaluation of the mark.

Devaluation of one national currency is difficult to sell. Devaluation of all, which is what German realignment would amount to, can be presented not as a failure of economic policy by Germany's partners but as a response to a unique phenomenon. Germany's problems are not those of the rest of Europe. Other European countries should not be expected to suffer painful cures for illnesses they do not share. The price of currencies must remain fluid between regions, whether inside something called an exchange rate mechanism or outside it. Lateral thinking and lateral action is now required.

NO EXPENSE SPARED

Members of Parliament always get themselves in an embarrassing tangle when giving themselves money. They will find it hard to explain why early yesterday morning they defied ministerial appeals for restraint and approved a 38 per cent increase in their cost allowances. As George Walden, a former minister, told the Commons, "Whatever the rights and wrongs of this issue, it will be seen out there by the public, where they are going to have no inflation-plus increases but inflation-minus rises, that we are behaving like a 1970s trade union and awarding ourselves increases for reasons they will never understand."

To be fair, MPs were not paying themselves more — their pay is raised annually in line with civil service pay — but gently feathering their nests. They were implementing the recommendations of the Top Salaries Review Body, which had proposed increases in allowances of between 29 and 46 per cent after a lengthy review. The government wanted to scale down these increases at the same time as limiting increases in the pay of senior civil servants, judges and senior members of the armed forces to 4 per cent. But the staff and resources available to British MPs are not generous, certainly not if compared with the American Congress and members of the European Parliament, though the latter are perhaps not the model to be admired and copied.

The workload of MPs has risen over the past 20 years, both through select committees and in the volume of constituency business. MPs are viewed ever more as local om-

budsmen in dealing with central and local government officials. The total allowance of nearly £40,000 which the Commons approved was £6,770 more than the government's proposal, but does not look excessive in view of the cost of employing staff in central London, properly equipping an office and maintaining services to constituents.

No ideal way exists to fix either pay or allowances when the final decision lies with MPs themselves. The present system of a review body may be the best available solution, with government expressing its view and MPs responding on the floor of the House. But MPs can hardly be surprised at the hostile reception their decision has met. The vote looks peculiarly selfish, insensitive and hypocritical when MPs are themselves supporting draconian economic policies that make many of their constituents redundant, while expecting all organisations to slash their overheads. In what world are these MPs now living? Do they not know the meaning of recession?

More serious is the bizarre double standard by which these same MPs are operating. How strange that it is on this issue alone that MPs are prepared to stand up and be counted as free-thinking individualists, against the pleas of the ministers and the demands of the whips! Is this the one moral cause which justifies an MP in thinking and acting independently of party or interest? Is this the sole manifestation of the conscience vote? Tuesday night's result was not a creditable moment in the history of the House of Commons.

JEUNES SANS FRONTIERES

When July with its constant showers has pierced the drought of June, and end-of-year exams are over, then students long to go on pilgrimage, to see the world as cheaply as possible. Their basic equipment is a backpack, an ability to sleep anywhere and a constitution that can survive on irregular and disgusting food and drink. For the past 20 years their magic carpet has been an iron horse, InterRail, which has offered those who can prove they are under 26 an astonishingly cheap season ticket for unlimited travel around the railway networks of Europe.

InterRail does more for European sisterhood and subsidiarity than a goods train full of EC directives and all the summit meetings ever held. Accordingly, it has caused trouble. France, Italy, Spain and Portugal are irritated that their trains are overloaded with free-wheeling students during the peak holiday months, and are asking for more money and a system to ration their young visitors.

Those who climb on this summer's bandwagon are paying £180 for a month's travel wherever they want, along 165,000 miles of track across 24 countries from Limerick to Ankara, Lisbon, and from Aberdeen to Basel. More than eight million inter-railers have tucked the InterRail ticket into their money-belts since the scheme started. Next summer it is proposed that they pay a supplement of £75 to visit the four disgruntled countries.

InterRail was never luxurious. In the summer there are only two classes of travel on the European railways: first class and InterRail. The trains on the golden routes to Greece and Rome are packed corridor-thick with interlocked and sleeping students. The inter-railers see more of railway junctions and baggage-salesmen than of Botticelli on their not-so-Grand Tour. Their grasp of European languages is terse, though they

learned to say *ne pas se pencher au dehors* and *e pericoloso sporgersi* in a dozen languages, in the days when train windows could be opened. Narrow natives hate them because they pack the trains and have only a student's petty budget to spend.

But for a generation of the young, InterRail has been a *pass-partout* to Europe and the adult world. It was their first independent travel, their first time to fend for themselves and mix with their peers from both sexes and all countries and classes, to be outrageously ripped off by the natives, to put up with a certain amount of discomfort and frustration — in short, a perfect dummy run for the world that stretches ahead of them.

The European Community transport commissioner blames "sordid internal intrigues" between the 24 national railway companies concerned for some hostility to InterRail. The real reason is the stinginess of France and the other three, which sell few InterRail tickets to their own young, but are swamped by inter-railers from the north and from America who have climbed aboard in thousands. One attraction of tourism for the host country is to extract the maximum money from its tourists. Inter-railers travel cheaply and have little to spend.

InterRail has done more for real European unity than all the rickshaws of the EC to and fro between Brussels and Strasbourg. But its restructuring is not going to end the summer wanderlust of the young. It is proposed to extend its bounty across half the world, from Spain to Siberia. If a donkey goes inter-railing, he does not come home a horse. But he may come back a wiser donkey. The higgledy-piggledy summer migration of the students across the frontiers of Europe is here to stay, and is the best antidote to chauvinism. It is a key to unlock the door to our common culture and civilisation.

No common ground on the exchange-rate argument

From Mr Fraser Danbury

Sir, I am a trader and speculator in foreign exchange. Two factors above all influence which currencies I buy or sell. One is the interest-rate differential between the two countries involved, the other the relative strength of their economies.

Recently far too much attention has been focused on the former. The Chancellor seems to think that by keeping our interest rates at around the same level as those in Germany the pound will somehow levitate back towards its central rate of 2.95.

If the economy continues to deteriorate as rapidly as it has, it is my belief that sterling will fall sharply, even if the interest differential with the mark is increased.

When planning European monetary union the participants should have aligned all the other variables first, such as inflation, money supply and the PSBR (public-sector borrowing requirement), and fixed the exchange rate last.

Yours faithfully,
FRASER DANBURY,
8 The Linds, Langdon Hills,
Basildon, Essex.
July 13.

From Mr Craig Knox

Sir, The letter by Tim Congdon and others (July 14) seems designed to "bounce" the UK out of the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system. The EMS is the only real hope for achieving permanently low inflation, an aim to which the authors surely subscribe.

They argue that "credibility" in the ERM is lacking. How can there be credibility in a stable price (and an exchange rate, after all, is only a price) when a vocal minority is constantly requesting a change in that price?

They say there is a premium on long-term bonds compared with index-linked gilt-edged stock. Actually, one is a financial, the other a real asset. They are not comparable. The historic real yield on ten-year government bonds is 5.13 per cent in the UK, in the US 3.9 per cent, in France approximately 5.5 per cent, in Germany 3.7 per cent.

Such yields tend to be higher in countries with a relatively poor long-term inflation record than in those with a relatively good record. Inter alia, inflation records are a function of long-term strength (or weakness) of the currency.

The pound is over-valued against the dollar, as Professor Congdon and his colleagues say, but then so are the

mark and the yen, so "devaluation talk" is not "inevitable" as they claim. At most we are seeing generalised dollar weakness, not a UK-specific phenomenon.

Finally, one despairs at the suggestion that a stable exchange rate be replaced by "a framework of domestic monetary stability". Successive UK governments have found it impossible to frame "a properly-constructed regime of money-supply targets", let alone achieve those targets.

If the UK left the ERM and interest rates were cut, the pound would fall, but what would happen to UK inflation? How would money-supply targets be enforced?

Would not the first-round effects of government spending cuts and/or tax increases required to rein in the PSBR in order to achieve a "responsible monetary policy" overwhelm the second-round benefits of lower interest rates and currency?

That begs the question whether, over the long run, a lower exchange rate would result in interest rates being lower than they otherwise would have been.

Yours faithfully,
CRAIG KNOX
(Investment strategist),
131 Cromwell Tower,
Barbican, EC2.
July 14.

From Mr Colin Davey

Sir, Professor Tim Congdon and his friends seek to convince you that not only was their previous contention that a period of monetary stringency was needed correct, but that their current view that monetary stringency should now be abandoned is also valid. They go on to claim that the lack of "credibility" (in the ERM) is because "the pound is badly overvalued" and "... should never have been pegged to an unrealistic level ..."

In 1969 the exchange rate was £1 to DM12. Today it is less than DM3. If that is an unrealistic level, how much further do we go? What is it that induces such pessimism in some people of high intellectual ability?

Yours optimistically,
COLIN DAVEY,
Les Goubeyrs Farm,
Vale, Guernsey, CI.
July 15.

From Mr Stephen R. Hill, FCA

Sir, The Chancellor's aim of reducing inflation will at some point coincide with the lowest level of

economic activity since the second world war. The Chancellor is addressing the wrong problem at the wrong point in the economic cycle.

The problem lies in the mismanagement of the upswing, for example in the badly timed expansionary budgets of 1974 and 1988. The time to have joined the ERM was in 1985, not in 1990, in order to restrain the boom. The Chancellor would then have been in a position to reflate gently in 1992-3, but to harness the next recovery with a timely interest rate and prudent fiscal management.

Yours faithfully,
S. R. HILL,
102 Jermyn Street, St James's, SW1.
July 13.

From Mr Patrick Dennis

Sir, Your optimism with regard to sterling (Business Comment, July 9) is based on big assumptions.

It is too early to suggest that the dollar is set to rise on purchasing-power parity and US recovery considerations because of the possibility of a further rate cut in the US and the fear of a German rate hike.

Indeed it is likely that German interest rates will not be cut until December at the earliest despite the recent strength of the mark, given the current trends in money supply and underlying inflation. The Bundesbank has a history of responding slowly initially to price and monetary developments and only then cutting rates sharply.

With respect to the Maastricht treaty, a "yes" vote in the French referendum is by no means certain. Nor is ratification in London a foregone conclusion: political developments may reach a climax at the Conservative party conference in the autumn, especially if the economy shows few signs of picking up by then. Indeed the UK economy may yet find itself in another downturn.

The devaluation risk in the UK and elsewhere in Europe will not disappear easily, especially here, where the deteriorating public finances and widening trade deficit will increasingly be taken on board by the markets.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK DENNIS
(Chief Economist),
Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd.
(London Branch),
Bracken House,
1 Friday Street, EC4.
July 9.

Business letters, page 23

Ways to remove obstacles for first-time house buyer

From Mr Peter Spencer

Sir, It is becoming increasingly clear that the recession will not end until the housing market recovers. The key lies in the hands of the first-time buyer, who has not been seen in this market since the heady days of August 1988. Fears of redundancy or capital loss have no doubt held some buyers back, but all the evidence suggests that home ownership is still surprisingly popular and that young people are keen to enter the market.

Difficult obstacles lie in their path. Lenders have tightened their criteria, so that first-timers have to find a much larger initial deposit, typically 10 per cent or more. Mortgage indemnity insurance is becoming prohibitively expensive.

The way to address this problem is not, as many have argued, through a continuation of the stamp-duty holiday or more drastic fiscal and monetary measures, but to relieve artificial credit constraints. For example, a system of government-guaranteed personal loans to first-time buyers, worth perhaps 5 per cent of the purchase price, would make it much easier to find the initial deposit and get the ball rolling.

The ultimate security for these loans would rest upon the state's ability to tax the homebuyer's future earnings rather than the value of the property. The student loan scheme offers an obvious model. The Treasury should be told to come up with something better or begin negotiations with the lenders. Otherwise the cycle of low turnover and consumer confidence, poor company results and further redundancies will simply continue.

Yours faithfully,
P. SPENCER (Chief Economist),
Kleinwort Benson
Securities Ltd.,
PO Box 560,
20 Fenchurch Street, EC3.
July 10.

From the Secretary-General, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Sir, The government has resisted calls for an extension of the moratorium on stamp duty (report, July 8). But if cost is the problem, why has it failed to answer calls for reform of the antiquated and unfair way in which stamp duty is levied? Two simple changes are needed:

1. The stamp duty threshold should be raised from the current level of

£30,000 to the average house price, around £60,000 — a move that we estimate would cost around £300 million.

2. Duty should be levied only on that element of the purchase price above the threshold, not on the whole purchase price.

These measures would help all those who want to enter the market. If the government is determined to maintain the tax take acquired over the years by stealth, then the honest approach would be to raise the level of duty at the upper end of the market.

The government knows that stamp duty is an anachronistic tax. That is why it decided several years ago to phase out the duty on share and other transactions. If stamp duty must be retained on house transactions then we are at least entitled to a proper response to calls for a more equitable and modern version of it.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PATTISON,
Secretary-General,
The Royal Institution of
Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square, SW1.
July 9.

Tourism in UK

From the Chairman of the British Tourist Authority

Sir, You open your account (July 15) of the National Economic Development Council's report on UK tourism by stating that "Britain's tourist industry is in the doldrums".

Not so. Official figures for the first four months of this year show that overseas visitors are, once again, arriving in record numbers. In April alone, 1.5 million overseas visitors spent an estimated £570 million — well up on the April 1990 record figures (1.4 million and £537 million respectively).

The NEDC is quite right to point out that the public and private sectors must get together to improve facilities. It echoes what we have been saying for years. The tourist boards are already playing an active role in tackling problems like immigration delays at London's airports.

None of us can afford to be complacent. But it is a remarkable fact that, despite our fickle weather and fierce international competition, Britain remains among the top five tourist destinations in the world. We expect to see nearly 18 million overseas visitors in 1992 and spending should be close to £8 billion — back to the 1990 record figures.

We could do better still, but the industry must be doing something right to achieve such results at a time when so many countries are still in recession.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM DAVIS, Chairman,
British Tourist Authority,
24 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.

Rees-Mogg and TV

From Mr Melvyn Bragg

Sir, In his interview with Valerie Grove (Life & Times, July 10), Lord Rees-Mogg said (or "mused"): "I find it hard to believe that he (Melvyn Bragg) had 300 letters saying 'jolly good rape scene'."

I have never said anything remotely like that. The letters I received after *A Time to Dance* were very supportive of the story: not of rape and not was I.

Was Rees-Mogg's remark made to draw attention away from the unconvincing base of, I understand, 37 letters about the programme to the Broadcasting Standards Council?

In my view the council is a questionable institution from which to draw the conviction, as Rees-Mogg seems to do, that he can hold the moral high ground on any subject. It is a pity that a serious debate on the portrayal of sex and passionate love on television has been reduced to the airy musings of a redundant censor.

Incidentally, it was not my decision to schedule *A Time to Dance* at 9.05pm on a Sunday night as seems to be implied by the same article. Having decided to place it there, the Controller of BBC1 did everything sensible through advance information to protect those who might have needed protection.

Yours faithfully,
MELVYN BRAGG,
12 Hampstead Hill Gardens, NW3.

From the Managing Director of GMTV

Sir, With reference to Lord Rees-Mogg's recent comments regarding

television's requirements (report, July 8) for "many, many, many, many women" in more serious positions, perhaps we at GMTV are already leading the way.

Lis Howell, our director of programmes, was omitted from his short-list of three women who make funding or scheduling decisions, and as we build our staffing toward our launch on January 1, 1993, we find that men in our company are an increasingly endangered species.

At the last count our staff comprised 42 women and 21 men and in our programming department we have 13 women in senior positions (producer/editor/correspondent and above) compared with only five men.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER STODDART,
Managing Director, GMTV,
Upper Ground, SE1.

From Mr Fred Emery

Sir, Many were the changes William Rees-Mogg wrought at *The Times*, but he would want to be the first to correct Valerie Grove's assertion that he introduced *The Times*' first women's page. It was Sir William Haley who not only reintroduced in the 1950s the pre-war women's features but launched the revised and expanded page in 1966.

Yours faithfully,
FRED EMERY,
Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2.
July 10.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Complexities of police deployment

From Inspector David Hobson

Sir, In your leading article, "Reforming Old Bill" (July 6), you say that it is not for the police alone to decide where policing value lies and they must defer to the wishes of the wider community. Perhaps I can shed some light as to where this statement, taken to its ultimate conclusion, would lead.

I am an inspector in charge of a sector. My area is large and accommodates a population of about 50,000 in varied communities. To police this area I am given an authorised establishment of 37 constables. The actual establishment is 34. For various reasons, six are long-term absent from operational duty. From the remaining 28, seven at any one time are on weekly rest day.

After subtracting court attendances, annual leave, training courses, sickness and other absences I am lucky to field five or six constables. Of course we have a 24-hour responsibility.

Part of my job is to maintain and improve channels of communication with the community. Between April 1 and June 30 my officers attended 16 meetings with parish councillors at which 25 matters of police interest were raised, as follows: parking problems 12; motor cycle nuisance: four; children/youth nuisance: three; crime: three; minor vandalism: one; other matters: two.

Judging by this particular yardstick my priority is clear: I should concentrate nearly 50 per cent of my resources on the illegal parking of vehicles. A simplistic formula, I admit, but no more so than your argument.

During the same period my officers dealt with nearly 2,000 calls for service from the public. Of these 670 were crimes, 44 per cent of which involved car crime and the rest covering almost the full gamut of criminal activity. They made 129 arrests as well as dealing with all the other facets of policing.

Added to this must be the mass of convoluted internal procedures, a mountain of paperwork and the necessity of coping with the arcane machinations of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

Policing is an involved and complex issue best tackled by professionals who listen to and take cognisance of public opinion and wishes but who are not slaves to them. Public opinion is too fickle and too easily shaped by the media and vested interest groups to be the sole deciding factor in police deployment.

Yours faithfully,
D. HOBSON,
3 Granary Close, Cuthorpe,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire.
July 6.

From Chief Inspector Gary Barnett

Sir, Your editorial makes a valid point about local accountability for the police, but is out of date in other respects. In this area the "surviving dragon of the public sector" did not give an "indifferent performance" but a rather good one. For example, since 1988 my own force has increased the number of crimes detected by 42 per cent, with an almost static manpower figure.

Had your editorial been published in 1980 I could have agreed with much of it, but in the last decade no public service has gone so far along the road of public consultation or accountability. Many officers concur that the rank pyramid is too tall and most would agree that local government input is vital. I know of no one who feels that a "simple relationship between Home Office ministers and the police ... would no doubt be more convenient to both".

A more balanced view of the police service and society would better serve both.

Yours faithfully,
GARY BARNETT,
North Yorkshire Police
Headquarters,
Newby Wiske Hall,
Newby Wiske,
Northallerton, North Yorkshire.
July 6.

Manna from heaven?

From Dr Ruth Whittaker

Sir, Each year the General Synod shares the campus of the University of York with the Open University.

If members of the synod are embarrassed by the luxurious quality of their food (report, July 13) I suggest that next year they choose to dine from the menus offered to the Open University, which are simple, nutritious and high in fibre.

In turn, we would be happy to relieve their consciences by consuming smoked pâté, chicken Kiev and charlotte russe.

Yours faithfully,
RUTH WHITTAKER
(Summer school tutor,
Course A319),
Open University,
Wentworth College,
University of York,
Heslington, York.
July 13.

From Mrs D. Simmons

Sir, Would it not be a good idea to hold one of the synod meetings during Lent?

Yours faithfully,
D. SIMMONS,
Wandsworth, 55 Dale Avenue,
Hassocks, West Sussex.
July 13.

OBITUARIES

TED FENTON

Ted Fenton, pre-war player and, later, manager of West Ham United from 1950 to 1961, died in Leicester General Hospital on July 11 aged 77 from injuries received in a car crash. He was born in Forest Gate, London, on November 7, 1914.

IN HIS eleven years as manager of West Ham United from 1950 Ted Fenton initiated a youth policy that produced Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters, key figures of the England side that won the World Cup at Wembley in 1966. He was only the third manager of a club that turned professional in 1900. Not only did Moore, England's captain in 1966, go on to become a soccer manager but so did Hurst, scorer of three goals against Germany in the World Cup Final, and Peters, who got the other goal, and many of Fenton's team of the 1950s: Malcolm Allison, Ken Brown, John Bond, John Lyall, Noel Cantwell and Malcolm Musgrove.

Fenton, the son of a policeman, was born four miles from the West Ham ground in 1914. He was the oldest of four boys in a family of eight. Fenton became the first boy to represent West Ham at football, cricket and athletics and had shown prowess in boxing. Fenton was chosen to play football for England schoolboys against Wales, but was ruled out because of an outbreak of smallpox in East London and being a contact. He was later selected against

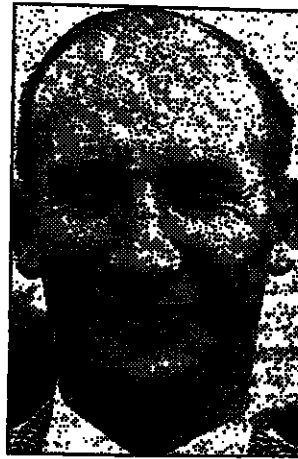
sweep and dust and then to the bathroom and slipper, bath and the dressing room to polish all the brass. At 9 am the assistant trainer, Frank Piercy, who always wore a bowler hat, would arrive to inspect the brass and the dusting. The rest of the day Fenton would help the groundsman rolling, painting and sweeping and, if time allowed in the afternoons, he would train.

The year after Fenton arrived West Ham were relegated. He played 150 games for the club and lined up alongside some of his boyhood heroes, Syd Puddefoot, Jim Ruffell and Vic Watson. He was selected to go to South Africa in 1939 in what, because of the war, was an unofficial England football team for a 13-match tour that included four "test matches" against a representative South African team. During the war Fenton was a company sergeant major instructor in the Army and played football at Aldershot alongside the legendary Joe Mercer and Matt Busby. On demobilisation in 1946 he joined Colchester, then in the Southern League, as player-manager and secretary and the following season he led his team to the fifth round of the FA Cup before they lost to Blackpool, the eventual finalists against Manchester United.

Fenton's exploits, including training his team on oysters from the East Anglian beds earned him notoriety. In 1948-49, when he was offered the position of manager at West Bromwich Albion, he consulted Charlie Paynter, the West Ham manager, and became his assistant instead. When Paynter, who completed 50 years at West Ham, retired, Fenton succeeded him. He led West Ham back to the first division for the first time in 26 years and proved an innovative manager who introduced weight-lifting exercise and steaks as a players' staple pre-match diet rather than the traditional fish, toast and tea.

Fenton later managed Southend United from 1961 to 1965 and his family still run a sports equipment business in Brentwood. His autobiography, *Home with the Hammers*, was published in 1987.

He is survived by his widow, Irene, who is still in hospital with a broken neck and collar bone after a head-on collision with another car when they were travelling to a family reunion in the Midlands with their son Alan. Brenda, Fenton's daughter, was also in the car with her husband, but escaped with cuts and bruises. Fenton died as a result of the injuries he incurred.



Scotland at Ibrox Park at the age of 14 and, on taking his international cap back to Odessa Road School to show off, he impressed a girl pupil named Irene who later became his wife.

Fenton left school at 14 to work in an off-licence. Then he was invited to become West Ham's first ever ground staff boy in March 1931 at 20 shillings a week. Fenton would start his day at 7.30 am in the billiard room, dusting, brushing and ironing the billiard table, then go on to the gymnasium to

QIAN SANQIANG

Qian Sanqiang, a physicist who helped pioneer China's military and civilian nuclear programmes, has died in Peking aged 79.

BORN in 1913 in China's Zhejiang province, Qian Sanqiang graduated from Qinghua University in 1936 and later did research work in France at the Curie Laboratory.

In 1946 Qian's research, with his wife and fellow physicist, He Zehui, led to the discovery of a new type of fission for uranium atoms — a breakthrough which won him acclaim from the French Academy. He returned to China in 1948 just as Mao Tse-tung's communists were preparing their final push to

take power and joined the Communist Party in 1954.

Like many other intellectuals, Qian fell victim to the radical excesses of Mao's policies and disappeared from public life for five years.

As China emerged from its self-imposed isolation in the 1970s Qian re-appeared in official posts and led a number of scientific delegations abroad. He was made a vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1978 and later was appointed president of Zhejiang University.

At the time of his death, Qian was a member of the standing committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and vice-chairman of the science and technology committee.

PETER GREENHAM

Peter George Greenham, CBE, painter and Keeper of the Royal Academy Schools, 1964-1985, died on July 11 aged 82. He was born on September 9, 1909.

PETER Greenham was most retiring and sensitive both in character and in his paintings. To some he may have seemed at times to take things rather easily but those who knew him well recognised that his benign nature and reticence in fact concealed considerable determination. There was an underlying resolve and strength in the spirit of his work, which has to be studied assiduously to be fully appreciated. He did not fritter away his energy on trivialities but, somewhat catlike, directed it to things that mattered.

Greenham was born in London, the second son of George Frederick Greenham, who was a civil servant and electrical engineer. He went to Dulwich College, read history at Magdalen College, Oxford, and was a student under F. Ernest Jackson at the Byam Shaw School of Art. He first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1934 and thereafter regularly from 1941, being elected an Associate in 1951 and a Royal Academician in 1960. He was a member of the Royal Society of British Artists (its president from 1974 to 1982), also of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and the New English Art Club and he had several one-man exhibitions of his work at the New Grafton Gallery. He was created CBE in 1978.

Peter Greenham spent a fair proportion of his life in teaching art. In his earlier days at Magdalen College School and at the Byam Shaw School of Art and, from 1954, at the Royal Academy, where he succeeded Sir Henry Rushmore as keeper ten years later. This position not only involves the direction of the Academy Schools but, by tradition, includes surveillance of the institution's considerable collection of works of art. He was also for a time the art critic of *The Scotsman* and, in 1969, he wrote a book



on Velasquez in the series "Painters on Painting".

Throughout his life he had a keen interest in music and was an amateur pianist of no mean accomplishment. All these activities, however, were additional to his overriding profession as a painter, particularly of landscapes, seascapes and portraits.

There are therefore aspects of Greenham's temperament and output that remind one of Gainsborough and it might fairly be claimed that he had a Rembrandtesque limitation of palette and feeling for pigment, coupled with the technique of the Impres-

sionists — a potent combination arrived at through his own instinct and experience.

His portraits, such as "Father D'Arcy, SJ", "Charlotte, Lady Bonham-Carter" and the numerous studies of his wife, Jane, and their family, are deeply felt and his landscapes and seascapes, nearly always of scenes he knew well and frequently in Oxfordshire, Norfolk and various parts of France, do not so much capture a particular moment as evoke dreams of past, present and future. He did not just record his impression of a subject but soaked up its essence.

Two of his paintings, namely "Jane" (1965) and "Life Class", were purchased for the nation under the terms of the Chantry Bequest, and the Royal Academy possesses two portraits by him, "Josephine" and "Eric Hebborn" (his diploma work on election as an academician), together with a winter landscape and a little gem of a sea picture.

Peter Greenham married, in 1964, a fellow artist, Jane Dowling (the New Grafton Gallery had a joint exhibition of their work recently). She and their son and daughter, survive him.

JURIS PODNIEKS

Juris Podnieks, Latvian film director, drowned on June 23 aged 41. He was born in Riga on December 5, 1950.



WITH the untimely death of Juris Podnieks, drowned while scuba diving, Latvia has lost one of her leading cultural figures and an influential director of documentary films. Internationally, Podnieks is known as one of those who, after the arrival of glasnost, first made real use of the new artistic freedoms in what was the Soviet Union. He revealed aspects of Soviet life which neither Western observers nor most Soviet citizens had been allowed to consider.

In Latvia, he and his team became national heroes for their coverage of the storming of the interior ministry in Riga on January 20, 1991, by Soviet police, which was shown around the world. Filming from the front line, two of Podnieks's cameramen were shot dead and he himself narrowly avoided being hit. He had only just returned from filming similar events in Vilnius, capital of neighbouring Lithuania.

Podnieks had begun work as an assistant cameraman at

the Riga Film Studios in 1968. He went on to Moscow to attend the Soviet Cinema Institute, from which he graduated in 1975. His first major documentary film was *Constellation of Riflemen* in 1982 which won first prize in the All Union Festival of Documentaries. This film took an ideologically sound subject, the Latvian soldiers who after the Russian Revolution of 1917 became one of the

mainstays of Bolshevik power and the core of the Red Army during the Civil War. However, Podnieks gave this a subtle twist, showing the impoverished and disillusioned condition of the surviving riflemen in the early 1980s. Implicitly he contrasted the real state of the Soviet Union with the hopes of the revolutionaries.

This was followed in 1984 by *Commander*, about Soviet partisans in Latvia during the second world war, showing the cruelty of internecine strife in the republic, and *Sisyphus*, criticising the lack of artistic freedom in the Soviet Union.

In 1986, after Gorbachev's arrival in power, Podnieks made his best known work, *Is It Easy to be Young?*, which won the first prize at the Krakow Film Festival and a prize from the International Association of Documentary Films. Few previous documentaries in the Soviet Union had had anything like the impact of this film and huge queues were reported at cinemas in several cities.

Beginning with a portrayal of the trial of some adolescent Latvian vandals, *Is It Easy to be Young?* is a frank and powerful look at the problems of contemporary

Soviet youth. It ended with interviews with Soviet veterans of the war in Afghanistan. This was the first time that the sufferings and disillusionment of Soviet troops in Afghanistan had been shown to a Soviet audience, and in this respect the film may have had some influence on the eventual Soviet withdrawal from the war.

In 1989 Podnieks made the film *We* (distributed abroad as *Hello, Do You Hear Us?*) about the strivings for independence of the Soviet republics, which won the Prix Italia the next year. This was followed by *Homeland and End of Empire*. He also became intensely involved in filming and publicising Latvia's own struggle for independence, an engagement which led naturally to the tragic daring of his team last year. From 1987 Podnieks had worked with British Independent Television on filming political changes in the Baltic States.

Apart from his achievement in film, Podnieks was known as a man of great courtesy and kindness. He had become a symbol of the attempt to free Latvian culture from the effects of decades of Soviet rule.

APPRECIATIONS

Dick Fifoot

THERE is one aspect of Dick Fifoot's career in librarianship (obituary, June 26) which merits some amplification.

Following the Board of Education's 1944 report on the supply, recruitment and training of teachers and youth leaders, there emerged during the late 1940s and early 1950s a national network of institutes of education. The report recommended a central role for the libraries of these institutes and one important outcome of this was close and extremely productive bibliographical cooperation between their librarians, in which Dick Fifoot, at Leeds, played a leading role.

As a member of the group of institute of education librarians during the period in question I recall, particularly, his major contributions to the rationalisation of responsibility for special collections and of periodicals holdings.

and his enthusiastic support for the implementation of speedy inter-lending arrangements between these specialised education libraries.

Above all, however, I would draw attention to creative and innovative work — largely by Dick Fifoot — which resulted in the co-operative indexing, by the institute librarians, of British periodical literature on education.

Before that time this literature was completely inaccessible in any organised form, but this new service, largely masterminded by Fifoot, went from strength to strength and eventually became the computer-based British Education Index. In bringing this about, as in all his other work with the institute librarians' group, Dick Fifoot revealed the charm, diplomacy and drive that were before long to stand him in such good stead on the national and international library scene.

Professor Wilfred L. Saunders

Albert Pierrepont



MAY I be permitted to add to the obituary of Albert Pierrepont (July 13) aspects not covered. Albert was a good and cheerful, and faithful friend of my dear late parents, Annie and Charles Allchild, former licensees of the Fitzroy Tavern. During the 1940s and 1950s, while on professional visits to London, he would often visit the tavern and, after he and his wife, Anne, had themselves become landlords of their pub "Help the Poor Struggler", often sought advice from the Allchilds.

Albert was a great supporter of the famed Pennies from Heaven fund, and often as "Uncle Albert" delighted the children who had no idea who this jolly man who loved to joke with them was at the annual Pennies from Heaven parties. In fact very few knew, until the headline in the *North London Press* on Friday January 20, 1950 was

"Hangman gave life to a party!" Having no children of his own, Albert loved to come up to the private sitting room of the Fitzroy to sit on his knee and his fine voice would sing nursery rhymes and songs.

The loss of another Fitzrovia, Albert Pierrepont, will be sadly missed but never forgotten by many of that era.

Sally Fifer

John Piper

MAY I add to your obituary of John Piper (June 30) a mention of his remarkable power of almost total visual recall. When he was a member of the Royal Fine Art Commission it was extraordinary how often, whilst commissioners were examining the design for a building or

other artifact proposed for some relatively remote situation unfamiliar to them, he could usefully describe from memory, in words as convincing as his drawings and paintings, the visual context in which the design was intended to be placed — information frequently omitted, either carelessly or carefully, from the drawings submitted.

Sir Anthony Cox

Lord Bath

A FEW years ago, Lord Bath (obituary, July 1) gave to an employee a retirement present inscribed "...for a lifetime of service to Longleat"; words which could apply equally to his own life. At his funeral last Saturday, one of his sons spoke of the three most important things in his father's life: his family,

Longleat and trees. With elegant simplicity Henry Bath cared for all three. The happiness and privacy of his family life at Job's Mill gave him refuge from the publicity he courted for the benefit of Longleat; until well into his 87th year he could be found, in all weathers, working happily among his trees and hoping, often in vain, that he might not be recognised.

Barbara Coombs

July 16 ON THIS DAY 1860



After Garibaldi's capture of Palermo on May 26 in the struggle for the unification of Italy, the dispatches of our correspondent, Ferdinand Eber, were sometimes discursive and often belated, which is hardly surprising as he was also in action as a brigade commander in the insurgent army.

INSURRECTION IN SICILY

Calanissetta has always had the credit of being one of the most prejudiced and Bourbonic towns. Indeed, in 1820 the neighbouring communes, led by the Duke of San Cataldo, came to reduce the recalcitrant town. As for prejudices, they still exist to a formidable extent, but either the town wants to ally suspicion or else it had changed in character, for rarely had troops a more enthusiastic reception than ours had yesterday.

Half the town, a well organized battalion of National Guards, the authorities, with bands and flags, came out to meet us, and although yet but indifferently accounted and numbering many infirm, the column winding down the road, accompanied by the masses, produced a charming effect. At the entrance of the town a triumphal arch had been improvised. As for the town itself, it seemed to be metamorphosed. One of the features which must strike every one in the interior of Sicily is the absence of women. You may go about on an ordinary day for hours without seeing any, except — what you don't much care to see — an old hag.

In the afternoon a request came to the officers to assist at the entry of St. Michel, the patron saint, into the town. He had been good enough to defer his entry out of regard for the passage of the patriot soldiers, and now his agents asked for a guard of honour.

The town would have been in grief had there been no red shirts to accompany the saint, and who knows what this latter might have devised in his wrath? For you must know that St. Michel of Calanissetta is a powerful saint, and that if Palermo were taken it was owing to his co-operation. The sacristan of the cathedral, and after him the whole population affirm that every night during the fight the saint disappeared, to their great fright and distress. At last these nocturnal excursions ceased, and the day after the news arrived of the taking of Palermo. How could any one doubt about who took Palermo?

The procession was one of the most curious sights — a mixture of absurdity, idolatry, and religious devotion, such as I have rarely witnessed. The streets through which the procession had to pass were lined with masses of the devotees, who were anxiously expecting the great moment, and had almost forgotten red blouses and Garibaldi has for a time. At last it approached. First the devotees of each religious community bearing torches, and followed by the body of acolytes, Capuchins, Franciscans, Dominicans, Carmelites, and others, whose name is legion, each preceded by a cross-bearer; last, the whole chapter of the cathedral with their dark red capes, and immediately behind, carried by 30 or 40 bearers, the wooden image of the saint himself, with a crimson cloak embroidered with gold, the figure of the saint, as well as of the evil one at his feet, exhibiting strong traces of renovation, particularly the fair looks of St. Michel and the grin of Satan. After the saint came the National Guard and the volunteers from our Cacciatori.

Every one threw himself down when the grotesque figure passed; while those around vied with each other who should have the privilege of carrying the conqueror of Palermo. No Buddhist could exhibit a truer spectacle of idolatry.

£352,000 for Gainsborough

A DRAWING by Thomas Gainsborough has been sold for £352,000 at Christie's in London. The price was the second highest ever realised for a work by the English eighteenth century artist.

A *Peasant Family going to Market* had been owned by the artist's widow; his daughter, Margaret, and the art historian and populist, Lord Clark. The sale, to an anonymous buyer, will benefit the trustees of Lord Clark's settlement trust.

Gainsborough frequently tackled the subject of idealised, idyllic country life during the 1770s and this example was one of its most elaborate manifestations in terms of composition.

The highest auction price for a Gainsborough was achieved last year for another watercolour, *A Lady Walking in a Garden*, at £161,000. At the same sale a watercolour by J. M. W. Turner of *The Splügen Pass* fetched £242,000. The last time it had appeared at Christie's, in 1929, the same picture had fetched 1,200 guineas.

Press of a button shows City's lower profile

BY MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

"Skyscrapers are out, groundscrapers in," says Ricky Burdett as he operates London's most elaborate new toy, a street by street development model of the City. Press one of the 30 buttons on the control panel and new and proposed buildings light up like the old-fashioned Paris Metro maps.

Mr Burdett hopes it will soon be extended to cover the whole of central London. If the meteoric rise of the Architecture Foundation, of which he is director, is anything to go by he will soon have his wish.

"At present the average citizen has little opportunity to access the impact of many proposals. Either you study a bundle of line drawings in the planning office or submit to the hard sell of the developers marketing suite." Now a scale model of any new building can be inserted into the master model and immediately be seen in context.

Of the 21 projects in the exhibition, *City Changes*, 13 have been completed and another eight have received planning permission or may do so soon. How many will be built is another question.

The strongest message to emerge is that British architects are pioneering

a new age of steel. Grime-stained exposed concrete is on the way out, and so, says Mr Burdett with relish, is granite-cladding.

For years reinforced concrete has been preferred to steel frame construction. Structural steel was considered a fire hazard and had to be encased in concrete to avoid fears of meltdown. The steel frames of Mies van der Rohe's glass skyscrapers had to be encased in concrete with a steel and glass grid overlaid to achieve the classic Miesian look.

Now advances in technique make it possible to use exposed steel and metal alloys in adventurous new ways. One pioneer here is Exchange House, built over the tracks of Liverpool Street Station by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. The leitmotif is a vast external train shed arch taking much of the weight of the building. Critics have carped that it is not a true parabolic arch. It does not follow a continuous curve like King's Cross station roof but consists of a series of straight sections bolted at angles and only looking like a curve at a distance. But this, says Mr Burdett, is the most economical use of the steel skeleton

and inside the building are two further arches supporting the load.

Tinted and reflecting glass has been overworked, so a medal is due to Sir Denys Lasdun, veteran architect of the National Theatre, for one of the most original all-glass exteriors in years at Milton Gate by the Barbican. The triple skin of this new office building has an astonishing aqueous look, a lighter or deeper marine blue according to the weather, given prismatic effect by the use of angles.

Both Sir Norman Foster and Sir Richard Rogers are going in a different direction towards greater use of clear glass with structural elements painted white as in a smart Scandinavian cruise ship. At No 1 London Wall, Foster has designed an elegant minimalist new office in an unusual long bow for Stanhope and Kajima, the Japanese developers, rising from six storeys at one end to twelve at the other. At the top, all the operation plant, usually concealed behind blank walls, is exposed to view like large elements of abstract sculpture.

Next door, Rogers's Daiwa building is set back every two storeys towards the top in a series of dramatic

roof terraces. Inside it promises a sensational atrium but the half drum shape leaves the lingering feeling that Rogers is profoundly uncomfortable beside the Art Deco monumentality of Farrell's Alban Gate.

The model, says Mr Burdett, shows that a third of the City has been entirely rebuilt since 1980 and a further third after the second world war. The losses have been tragic so it is good that the exhibition makes this strong showing of refurbishment projects including Bracken House (the old *Financial Times* building), Billingsgate fish market, the Royal Exchange, Britannic House and even the red-brick university of Waterloo's Prudential building.

In the leaflet accompanying the exhibition, Mark Girouard sees the emerging City in these terms: "Instead of tower blocks rising out of windy piazzas, lower buildings achieve the same floor area by being built up to the street line, and are made accessible to the public by means of arcades and atriums."

City Changes is at the Royal Exchange, 10am-5.30pm until August 21.

Insurer insists 'hot hatch' owners fit security device

By Kevin Eason
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE Norwich Union insurance company is refusing to offer theft cover on 45 makes of high-performance hatch-back cars unless their owners spend up to £450 on engine immobilisers.

Britain's biggest motor insurer said yesterday that it would turn away new customers from August 1 if they own popular models, including Ford's Escort XR3i and Volkswagen's Golf GTI, which do not have the specified Vecta immobiliser.

The decision led to confusion last night as the Volkswagen Audi VAG Group, Europe's biggest motor manufacturer, stood by its advice to its 320 dealers not to fit the

Vecta system. It claims that complex immobilisers, which are wired into eight different areas of a car's electronic systems, including the engine management computer, could cause the engine to stall while the car is moving.

The Volkswagen warning has prompted Lissonic Ltd, which makes the Vecta, to complain to the European Commission. Solicitors are also considering civil action against VAG and a complaint to the Office of Fair Trading. David Ely, Lissonic's marketing manager, said: "The Vecta is the most advanced system on the market and has full approval, after months of testing, from agencies like the police."

The legal battle may go some way to solving the dispute over security devices. Motor manufacturers are still waiting for the International Standards Organisation to make recommendations on specifications for the equipment, which prevents thieves taking cars even if they break in and hot-wire the ignition.

Norwich Union was unmoved by criticism of the Vecta. The company said that the device was vital if the company was to cut losses on its motor business. The cost of car theft to the Norwich last year was £65 million, up from £50 million in 1990, with thieves targeting the so-called hot hatchbacks.

Derek Plummer, Norwich Union's marketing manager, said: "We were faced with a number of options, including imposing a huge premium for these cars or not offering theft cover at all. We have chosen to continue to offer cover to new customers who take this very important step to reduce the risk of car theft."

Besides the XR3i and Golf GTI, the "blacklist" includes the Fiat Uno Turbo, Ford Fiesta XR2i and three Sieras, two Mercedes Benz 190 models, four Renaults, nine Vauxhalls and the Peugeot 205 GTi. Existing Norwich customers who fit a Vecta system, which costs between £350 and £450 for specialist cars, will earn a £40 rebate on their premium.

Operation on Pope successful

Continued from page 1
The Pope was wheeled back to his suite on the tenth floor. "The Holy Father tolerated the operation well," the joint medical bulletin said, adding that "the usual final analyses of the piece removed had been started."

The successful initial outcome of the operation caused relief in the Vatican, assuaging the alarm caused when the Pope announced abruptly on Sunday that he was about to enter hospital. The first sign that the surgery had gone well came when diplomats accredited to the Vatican began leaving an office used by the protocol department of the Holy See and an ambassador from Central America told reporters: "The Pope is going to make it."

More than 5,000 of Pope John Paul's fellow Poles attended a Mass for him in St Peter's yesterday. The Vatican said the Pope said Mass before the operation.

Professor Cruciani said the operation would not change the Pope's lifestyle after his convalescence and that he can resume his usual pattern of intense foreign travel.



Over and out: Jodi Fisher, Britain's European under-21 slalom champion, flips from the waves yesterday during a practice session at the Princes Club at Bedford, west London. He was preparing for the British national waterski championship to be held this weekend at the White Rose club in Yorkshire

Peace in Bosnia falls to the lowest bidder

Continued from page 1
struction to be stopped, to have heavy weapons put under international control," he said.

The taxi driver who collected the foreign minister afterwards was unsure of who his passenger was. When told, he put his finger on the pulse, saying: "Christie's for peace talks? Unusual... but then they do seem to be auctioning Bosnia off."

Lord Carrington said after his talks with Mr Boban, the Croat leader, that the three sides had agreed to continue contacts through Senor Cutileiro. Mr Silajdzic, who would convey his position to

the other two parties. Lord Carrington's capacity to pluck hope from the blackest of diplomatic holes remained alive last night, however. Mr Silajdzic's unwillingness to sit down with Mr Karadzic did not prevent negotiations, but "it makes it infinitely more cumbersome," he said.

□ Douglas Hurd yesterday began a four-day fact-finding mission to Yugoslavia and the capitals of all four breakaway republics. He was due to meet Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, in Paris on his way to Ljubljana, the Slovenian capital.

Stadium shelled, page 13
Diary, page 14

Bundesbank holds the key to fate of pound

Continued from page 1
and 5.5 per cent. Currency markets were unsettled by reported remarks from Otmir Issing, a member of the Bundesbank board, that recent strong growth of money supply could create considerable inflationary potential, suggesting a need for tighter policy.

He argued that expansion of the money supply could not be explained away by "special factors", such as increased use of the mark in Eastern Europe, or a flood of investments into short-term deposits.

In a speech yesterday to the American Chamber of Commerce in London, Paddy Ash-

down, the Liberal Democrat leader, said Mr Major and Mr Lamont were right "when they say that unilateral devaluation at present would be unlikely to provide anything but the shortest of short-term assistance at a cost of powerful long-term damage".

Earlier he told reporters at a Westminster news conference: "I am prepared to support any action necessary to maintain Britain's position in the exchange-rate mechanism. If it involves raising interest rates we have to be prepared to do it."

Leading article and
Letters, page 15
Pound hurt, page 19

Political sketch

Labour dogs bark at new postman

As the summer hols approach, MPs grow careless with their metaphor. In a debate on shipping and the merchant fleet last week Mark Wolfson (C Sevenoaks) called for a level playing field. And yesterday afternoon, Phillip Oppenheim (C Amber Valley) became so excited about the privatisation of Parcel Force that he launched into a complex bird metaphor, getting his birds mixed up.

"What," he asked, "do the dear old Labour party persist in burying their heads in the sand, parroting tired old formulae?"

There seem to be two confusions here. The first relates to the difference between ostriches and parrots. Parrots do not bury their heads in the sand, and ostriches do not parrot tired old formulae.

But it was upon the second confusion that the president of the board of trade based his response. If Labour were minded to parrot, Michael Heseltine told him, they should surely be encouraged to try this with their heads buried in the sand? When his new £10,000 per annum increase in research allowances comes through, Mr Oppenheim might like to buy himself a textbook on tropical ornithology.

But he had a point. Let us move the metaphor from birds to the canine world.

Her Majesty's Opposition increasingly resembles a half-deaf, near-sighted, arthritic old dog, doing in the summer sun. It is too lazy to nose around any longer looking for things to chase, and too stiff to follow them if they run. It has lost its interest in fighting with other dogs, having been badly bitten three times.

But it can still bark. Rather a feeble, rasping old bark, but the instinct fingers, the last to fade.

It barks — this Labour dog — at anything that moves. The sense of smell, once keen, has gone, and our canine friend has lost the wit to distinguish between movements that represent a threat and those which are welcome. In the farmyard within its range of vision, any obvious, deliberate movement at all causes the old dog to lift its weary head, yellowing teeth half-bared in the remnants of a snarl, growl a little, in a token sort of way, and emit a routine woof. Old habits

die hard. Movement in the yard yesterday was provoked by the proposed privatisation of the post office's parcels service.

There are all kinds of questions which can be asked here. Mr Heseltine's statement was disgracefully obscure. You might ask, for instance (though no body did), what happens if the service goes bust. You might ask (nobody did) what Mr Heseltine meant by his offhand remark that a universal service would be guaranteed, but not necessarily by Parcel Force. But all that was too impertinent for Tory poodles and too complicated for the opposition.

The old dog simply registered the fact that the Tories were changing something — from public to private sector — and started to bark. "Public sector good! Private sector bad!"

One Labour backbencher asked how it could be possible that a company should provide a public service and aim to make a profit. Tony Benn barked about the heritage of Sir Roland Hill (who, as the Tories' John Bawie remarked, had envisaged the privatisation of this service in rather less than 150 years).

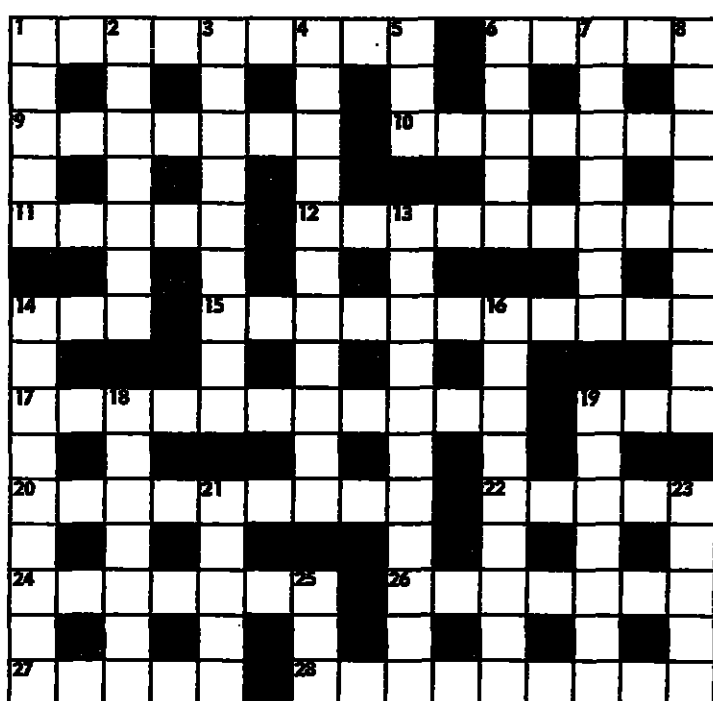
Another Labour MP asked about the removal of "Royal" from the vans. Stafford's Bob Crier stirred himself to a sanctimonious little rant about the problems of those on low-incomes...

I say this not in jest: that if postal charges were means-tested so that the poor needed fewer stamps, and yesterday's proposal had been that postage should be the same for everybody, Labour would have opposed it. Why? Because it would be a change. And they could recognise it as being in a non-socialist direction.

Thus the Labour party gazes, half-stupified, at modern Britain and barks at any sign of movement. But the bark has no meaning any more. Too far gone to move and no longer able to bite, the Opposition's higher brain functions have shut down. Only the breathing, the eye-movements, and a sort of un-directed snarl remain. Only the reflexes, only the bark and howl, are left.

MATTHEW PARRIS

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,972



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?
By Philip Howard

MEACOCK
a. A cowardly effeminate person
b. A reversible tap
c. A Brahmin tantrum
CORYPHEE
a. Chief dancer in the ballet
b. A wine-bearer
c. A crown of roses
INSUFFLATE
a. To blow or breathe in
b. A Carthaginian magistrate
c. Deprived of one's vote
PYKNIC
a. An organic vegetarian picnic
b. Short and stout
c. The pedestal of a Doric column
Answers on page 16

ACROSS
1 Where Cain went to sleep? (4,2,3)
6 Rise of Conservative member (5)
9 Question is answerable (7)
10 I comply with new order from Greece (7)
11 Cockney chap who sells willow (5)
12 Colleague of journalist went wrong in Chapside (9)
14 About to fell a hidden tree (3)
15 Edinburgh rock in Camelot (7,4)
17 Very properly following a fellow (1,1)
19 Hit back and attain equality (3)
20 Sibyl was hit — copper gets involved (9)
22 A sweet sent back, being cold (5)
24 Ape — one finds it in China, say (7)

DOWN
26 We, at our allotment, survive (7)
27 Visitor believed in free speech (5)
28 Seen about in the distance, strips down (9)
1 Look round a ship to find a rope (5)
2 "Any old iron?" Raised one pound in police station (7)
3 Defeat by cunning completed pass (9)
4 Fit to obtain exotic know-how, by the sound of it (3,1,3,2,2)
5 'Twain didn't use ordinary leading characters (1,3)
6 Bank robber running across Scotland (5)
7 Drive, executing simple U-turn (7)
8 Put a boat in reverse to an isolated place (9)
13 Trick made by fellow at bridge (6,5)
14 High jump for children (9)
16 M., for instance, identified part for Miss Pym as Terpsichore (9)
18 I benefit, accepting one's love (7)
19 Saw wanderer in the lead (7)
21 Man with the knack to evoke compassion (5)
23 Strong point (or strongpoint, to the English) (5)
25 The Spanish start to market wood (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 18,971

ACROSS
1 BURNING
6 RISE
9 ANSWERABLE
10 COMPLIANCE
11 WILLOW
12 JOURNALIST
14 FELL
15 ROCK
17 FOLLOWING
19 EQUALITY
20 SIBYL
22 COLD
24 APE
DOWN
26 SURVIVE
27 SPEECH
28 STRIP
1 SHIP
2 IRON
3 PASS
4 EXOTIC
5 CHARACTERS
6 SCOTLAND
7 U-TURN
8 PLACE
13 TRICK
14 JUMP
16 TERPSICHORE
18 LOVE
19 WANDERER
21 COMPASSION
23 POINT
25 WOOD

Concise crossword, page 19
Life & Times section

Today's pollen count forecast is
MODERATE SELDANE
A major advance in hayfever treatment.

Clue: Add two to initially backward superior product (3).

ANSWERS
ACROSS
1 BURNING
6 RISE
9 ANSWERABLE
10 COMPLIANCE
11 WILLOW
12 JOURNALIST
14 FELL
15 ROCK
17 FOLLOWING
19 EQUALITY
20 SIBYL
22 COLD
24 APE
DOWN
26 SURVIVE
27 SPEECH
28 STRIP
1 SHIP
2 IRON
3 PASS
4 EXOTIC
5 CHARACTERS
6 SCOTLAND
7 U-TURN
8 PLACE
13 TRICK
14 JUMP
16 TERPSICHORE
18 LOVE
19 WANDERER
21 COMPASSION
23 POINT
25 WOOD

WEATHER
Mainly dry, with bright or sunny spells over much of England. The west and south-west of England will be cloudy, with coastal fog patches and outbreaks of rain this evening. Cloud and rain will spread east across Northern Ireland and western Scotland this morning, reaching eastern areas this afternoon. Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: showers in north; elsewhere, outbreaks of rain tomorrow, and mainly dry and sunny on Saturday.

MIDDAY: 1=thunder; 2=drizzle; 3=fog; 4=sun; 5=cloud; 6=snow; 7=rain; 8=rain; 9=rain; 10=rain; 11=rain; 12=rain; 13=rain; 14=rain; 15=rain; 16=rain; 17=rain; 18=rain; 19=rain; 20=rain; 21=rain; 22=rain; 23=rain; 24=rain; 25=rain; 26=rain; 27=rain; 28=rain; 29=rain; 30=rain; 31=rain; 32=rain; 33=rain; 34=rain; 35=rain; 36=rain; 37=rain; 38=rain; 39=rain; 40=rain; 41=rain; 42=rain; 43=rain; 44=rain; 45=rain; 46=rain; 47=rain; 48=rain; 49=rain; 50=rain; 51=rain; 52=rain; 53=rain; 54=rain; 55=rain; 56=rain; 57=rain; 58=rain; 59=rain; 60=rain; 61=rain; 62=rain; 63=rain; 64=rain; 65=rain; 66=rain; 67=rain; 68=rain; 69=rain; 70=rain; 71=rain; 72=rain; 73=rain; 74=rain; 75=rain; 76=rain; 77=rain; 78=rain; 79=rain; 80=rain; 81=rain; 82=rain; 83=rain; 84=rain; 85=rain; 86=rain; 87=rain; 88=rain; 89=rain; 90=rain; 91=rain; 92=rain; 93=rain; 94=rain; 95=rain; 96=rain; 97=rain; 98=rain; 99=rain; 100=rain; 101=rain; 102=rain; 103=rain; 104=rain; 105=rain; 106=rain; 107=rain; 108=rain; 109=rain; 110=rain; 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TODAY IN BUSINESS

ENIGMA



William Kay takes a look at Great Universal Stores, founded by Sir Isaac Wolfson, an enigma among retailers
Page 23

FALLING OFF

Foreign investment has dropped for the first time in a decade amid growing international competition
Page 21

PROTEST ROAR



Sir Robert Clark, chairman of Mirror Group, will meet angry shareholders at today's annual meeting
Page 20

VEIL LIFTED

The authorities of Hong Kong have lifted the veil from a secret HK\$236 billion exchange fund
Page 21

IN THE PAST



Robert Bruce asks whether tax havens have seen their day as pressure against tax avoidance is growing
Page 26

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9273 (+0.0111)
German mark 2.8453 (-0.0041)
Exchange index 92.4 (+0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1896.2 (-1.2)
FT-SE 100 2486.4 (+2.4)
New York Dow Jones 3354.06 (-4.33)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17116.92 (+52.29)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills: 9 1/4-9 1/2%
US Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills: 3.19-3.18%
30-year bonds: 10 3/4-10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£: \$1.9284
DM: £1.9255
DM: £1.9255
Sfr: £1.7376
Sfr: £1.7376
FF: £1.8930
FF: £1.8930
Yen: £125.09
Yen: £125.09
Index: 92.4
Index: 92.4
ECU: £0.716862
ECU: £0.716862
SDR: £0.753451
SDR: £0.753451
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM 350.95 PM 350.90
Close 351.75-352.25
£182.20-183.00
New York:
Comex 352.75-353.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$20.05/bbl (\$20.05)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 129.3 June (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Career service to get wider role

Shephard hints of an end to war with unions

By Ross TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GILLIAN Shephard, the employment secretary, has signalled an end to the government's 13-year war with the trade unions.

Although she intends to complete the passage into legislation of the measures contained in *People, Jobs and Opportunity*, the government's employment white paper, inherited from Michael Howard, her predecessor, Mrs Shephard has no plans to add to its provisions.

She said yesterday: "There was a war between the government and the trade unions. I am not talking about trade unions in any particularly hostile way because we are in a different decade. I do not see this bill as another war against trade unions."

Mrs Shephard suggested that the steep fall in industrial unrest was evidence of a sea change in industrial relations in Britain. In the year to April, the latest for which figures are available, fewer working days were lost to strikes than at any time since the 1920s.

The employment bill, which will resume its passage through Parliament in October, contains provisions that have been criticised by trade unions. It will end "check-off", the arrangement under which companies collect subscriptions from their workers on behalf of trade unions, and

will give workers the right to belong to any union they chose.

Unions fear this will lead to a steep fall in membership, and possibly to an increase in disputes about workplace representation. The bill also requires unions to give advance notice of strikes and gives individuals affected by unlawful wildcat action in public services a right to sue unions.

Mrs Shephard made it plain, however, that the measures that most interested her were the hitherto little discussed powers to extend the work of the careers service to provide more advice for adults as well as teenagers. Extension of the careers service fits neatly with her desire to improve the quality of government safety-net training schemes and help to the jobless. Mrs Shephard is

convinced that the careers service has an important part to play in getting adults and teenagers training they will subsequently use at the workplace.

"It is not satisfactory at the moment," Mrs Shephard said. "Young people make uninformed decisions with their parents. They might spend two years doing the wrong course. That does not increase the skill content of the economy. If they had better guidance, they might make better choices."

An increased role for the careers service will be among proposals to be considered by a working party established by the employment secretary to review the effectiveness of training provision. "That whole area needs to be looked at again," Mrs Shephard said. She is already seeking to persuade Treasury ministers that the 82 Training and Enterprise Councils, which oversee local delivery of training programmes, need three-year funding in the manner applied to NHS trust hospitals.

She believes the Tecs' ability to deliver training appropriate to the needs of local companies and individuals will be enhanced if they can plan further ahead.



Shephard: sea change

Diary, page 23

Pound hurt by growing fears of Bundesbank rate rise

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FEAR that the Bundesbank will today tighten monetary policy drove the mark up and pushed the pound and other currencies into retreat on a broad front.

The dollar fell to its lowest for 17 months against the mark, while the Bank of Italy was forced to intervene to stem the slide in the lira, amid growing market conviction that the Bundesbank council will raise a key lending rate, a move likely to heighten tensions in the European exchange-rate mechanism. Expectations of a general realignment of the ERM hardened, despite assurances to the contrary from the British and other governments.

Stirling, seen as one of the riskier currencies in the exchange-rate mechanism, fell to DM2.8425, little more than a penny above its effective floor, as the flight to the safety of the mark continues. By the official London close at 4pm, the pound had firmed a little, but finished at DM2.8453, nearly a half

penny below its closing rate on Tuesday. But it gained more than a cent against the falling dollar to end at \$1.9273, boosting its trade-weighted index 0.2 to 92.4.

News that the Bundesbank will hold a press conference today, plus remarks from Oskar Lüssing, a Bundesbank director, which suggested that money supply growth justified a policy tightening, helped fuel speculation about the likely severity and nature of German moves. Many analysts believe the Bundesbank will raise its discount rate from its present record of 8 per cent to signal that it is still serious about combating inflationary pressures. Forecasts centred on an increase of a quarter to a half point. An adjustment of discount, or possibly Lombard, rate quotas is seen as a possible alternative.

German M3 money supply growth, which was running at 9 per cent in May, is under review at today's Bundesbank meeting. Although well outside its target corridor of 3.5 to

5.5 per cent growth, analysts believe the Bundesbank is unlikely to alter the target range. Some believe the Bundesbank will avoid direct hikes in its discount and Lombard rates, but take other measures to reduce liquidity in the banking system.

Bundesbank meets, page 1
Leading article, page 15

Key accounting practices may have to be changed

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

COMMON accounting practices, including those for leasing and acquisitions, will have to be changed if accounting principles proposed by the Accounting Standards Board come into effect.

The proposals are contained in two draft chapters for the board's planned statement of principles, defining the elements that should be recognised and included in profit and loss accounts and balance sheets. David Tweedie, the board's chairman, said they were the guts of the statement.

He said: "There would be some fundamental changes. There are conflicts between these principles and existing practice. They are more significant than people may immediately realise."

The definition of assets and liabilities, which would recognise rights to a contracted

stream of benefits if they can be measured reliably, implies that operating leases on items such as aircraft would have to be recognised as assets and liabilities in the same way as finance leases effectively covering almost all the life of the asset, further reducing scope to exclude obligations from a company's balance sheet.

The common practice of companies writing off heavy reorganisation costs on acquisitions would also have to end if the draft principles, which are up for discussion until the end of October, are endorsed. The need for an asset to be "measured at a monetary amount with sufficient reliability" would also affect accounting for intangible assets such as brand names.

Comment, page 23
Accountancy Times, page 26

Lift-off granted for Air France cash

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission yesterday said it considered a £128 million cash injection into Air France by Banque Nationale de Paris, the French state bank, as a "normal financial transaction".

However, the deal, which gives BNP an 8.8 per cent stake in the ailing carrier, was viewed with suspicion by Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, and will undoubtedly cause dismay at British Airways, which has protested to Brussels over its continued tendency to allow large amounts of taxpayers' cash to flow into the EC's state airlines.

Analysts suspect that the normally rigorous vetting standards applied to state aid by Sir Leon are not upheld in airline cases, which come within the portfolio of Karel Van Miert, the transport commissioner. They also point to the increasingly elaborate cross-subsidy

schemes operated by the French government. BNP last year took a stake in Usinor Saeclor, the state-owned steel maker. Last November, Sir Leon was narrowly defeated within the 17-member commission when he tried to block the French government's £2 billion injection into Air France. In both cases, Mr Van Miert has argued that a normal private investor would have acted in the same way as the government and BNP.

Analysts said this assumption was surprising, given that Air France made a loss of Fr685 million last year. One said: "Can you really imagine a private investor putting money into a company like that?"

To compound doubts, the commission issued a press release that began to sound little more than an advertising leaflet for Air France. It said: "In the long term, the perspectives for the group are good in a generally good civil aviation climate because it has solid competences, a good brand image, a good level of

efficiency and substantial development prospects in the Charles de Gaulle airport."

For its Fr1.25 billion, BNP will receive bonds that can be converted into shares in Air France at any time over the next eight years. The bonds pay a fixed 6.5 per cent rate of interest. The commission said: "If Air France exploits its market potential, one can estimate that BNP will be well rewarded."

Brussels has yet to examine Air France's purchase of a Fr6 billion, 37.5 per cent stake in Sabena, the Belgian national carrier that is in an equally calamitous financial state.

Analysts are awaiting the outcome keenly as the enquiry will be made by Sir Leon, because the case falls under competition rules and not the state aid code. Airline sources in Brussels said Snecma, the French engine maker, was also seeking private or state cash.

Comment, page 23



Cheer for a fruitful year: John Rudgard celebrates HP Bulmer's 19% gain yesterday

Taunton Cider offer left flat

THE Taunton Cider offer has become the third share issue in a week, after those of Anglian Group and MFI, to be snubbed by the small investor, with only 30 per cent of shares on offer went to the man in the street. Taunton, maker of Dry Blackthorn cider and other drinks, offered 29.2 million shares to retail investors and placed firm a similar number with City institutions last week at 140p. Taunton found buyers for 13.2 million shares sold in the public offer, but 4.47 million of these went to sub-

underwriters, leaving just 8.78 million shares applied for by the retail investor. As a result, 15 per cent of the shares being floated, the placing included, went to the public.

John Rudgard, chief executive of HP Bulmer, yesterday drank to a 5.5p a share final dividend, which lifts the total in the year to April to 7.4p (6.87p). Profits rose 19 per cent to £17.1 million as cider sales rose.

Tempus, page 22

HK Bank high-flier to join Midland

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Hongkong and Shanghai Bank has appointed one of its highest-flying executives to help reinvent Midland Bank. Keith Whitson, executive director of Marine Midland in America, has been made deputy chief executive of Midland.

Midland has confirmed that Gene Lockhart, its head of British banking, and George Loudon, chief executive of Midland Montagu, the bank's two highest-paid directors, are leaving.

Last year, they earned a combined salary of almost £800,000 and are believed to have received severance pay of more than £1 million. Both their jobs are being axed in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's reorganisation.

The bank also confirmed that Brian Goldthorpe, its deputy chief executive, has been made the head of Hongkong Bank's credit risk department.

The promotion recognises Mr Goldthorpe's skills in handling bad debts. In 1983, he helped run Midland's rescue of Crocker National, its ill-fated American subsidiary.

Mr Whitson, 49, will work under Brian Pearce, Midland's chief executive, and take on responsibility for the bank's European operations, including Trinkaus & Burkhart in Germany and Midland SA in France. He is already being tipped as Midland's leader when Mr Pearce retires.

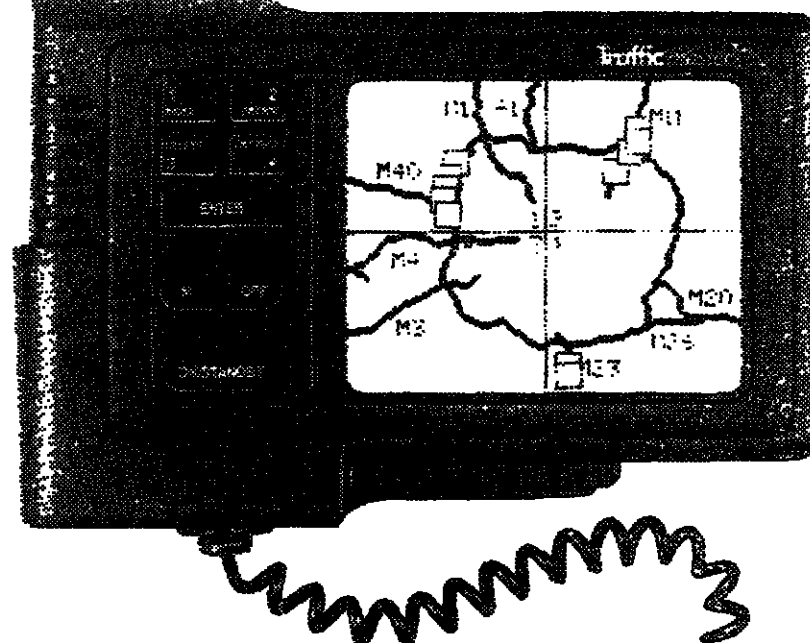
The appointment makes John Bond, Marine Midland's president, the favourite to become Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's group chief executive when the post is announced next January.

Other contenders still include Bernard Asher, the head of the group's investment banking division, and Paul Selway-Swift, the area manager of the Hong Kong operations.

Mr Whitson and Mr Bond have been responsible for turning round Marine Midland, which, until this year, has been a black spot in Hongkong Bank's figures.

In 1990, Marine suffered a loss of \$296 million because of heavy bad debts. In the first quarter of this year, it recovered to a \$2.6 million net profit and is expected to report a half-year profit of more than \$20 million next Monday.

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True reflection sought at Mirror group

BY NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR ROBERT Clark, the new chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, faces the toughest test of his long career when he confronts up to a thousand angry shareholders and pensioners at the annual meeting in London this morning.

The company is expecting a heavy turnout at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster and has hired the Central Methodist Hall next door to accommodate any overflow.

Sir Robert will try to explain how he and his fellow directors allowed Robert Maxwell to steal £421 million from MGN, losses that have pushed the company close to administration.

The board's position is safe in one vital respect. It has the support of John Talbot, a partner at Arthur Andersen, administrator of the Maxwell private companies, who controls the voting of almost 55 per cent of the group's shares, even though those shares are now held as security by the banks. The board has also received a large number of proxies to the six motions that are voting ten to one in favour of the board.

Mr Talbot's votes mean the company's report will be passed and the position of its

directors is safe, for now. Mr Talbot is not expected at the meeting, but will use his proxy. The board, however, will face a rough ride before reaching the safe haven of a proxy vote.

Most of MGN's 3,500 shareholders and pensioners are angry. Shareholders feel they were misled into buying shares in the company's flotation last year. At the time, Robert Maxwell claimed that "even a one-eyed Albanian can see these shares will go to a premium". When trading resumes in MGN's shares on Friday, one-eyed Albanians will, like other investors, discover they have lost up to half their money.

The most vociferous questions will come from the Association of Mirror Pensioners, whose 12,000 members lost an estimated £300 million in Robert Maxwell's rampage. The association holds only 250 shares, since it advised its members not to invest in MGN's flotation in April last year.

MGN may try to block proxies from speaking at the meeting. This will silence Tony Boram, the chairman of the association, and Giles Orton, its solicitor, two of MGN's fiercest critics. If they

cannot speak, the job will pass to Ken Huddell, the association's secretary and MGN's former company secretary. Mr Huddell is a trustee of the reformed Mirror pension fund.

He will ask the directors, including Sir Robert, how much they did to avoid the shattering fraud. "I want an explanation about why the directors did so little to prevent it — why they did not call a meeting of the audit committee when they noticed that funds were missing," said Mr Boram.

"If they do not give me satisfactory replies, I am prepared to call for their resignation," he added.

MGN's shares have been suspended at 125p since December and are expected to be delisted on Friday. The price is expected to plunge to 65p.

The association will also call for the quick sale of the controlling stake in MGN, which is controlled by the National Westminster, Midland, Goldman Sachs and Lloyds banks. "I want to make a case for the speedy sale of the company to get us out of the hands of the banks. Any delay is going to increase the anxiety among pensioners about their future," said Mr Boram.



Waiting for answers: pensioners will question directors about the Maxwell saga

Restructuring fails at West Industries

WEST Industries, the engineering group, has been forced to abandon its attempt at a financial restructuring and has asked its bankers to appoint an administrative receiver. This comes 19 months after West took over Audit & General, an engineering, nursing home and property group. The deal valued A&G at under £2 million.

However, just three months after the takeover, West completed Svenska Handelsbanken, the Swedish bank, appointed a receiver to A&G and its subsidiary companies after a £5.8 million overdraft was not cleared. Svenska's action, which came as West was endeavouring to put together a rescue rights issue, prompted a complaint to the Bank of England. The Swedish bank's actions, West alleged, were "inappropriate and precipitous". Shares in West were suspended a fortnight ago at 2p.

Cross-border deals rise

THE number of cross-border acquisitions by companies rose in the second quarter but is still well down on the levels of three years ago. Worldwide cross-border deals were valued at \$21.5 billion in the second quarter against \$14.3 billion in the first three months of the year, according to KPMG, the accountancy firm. Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's \$5 billion bid for Midland Bank and Nestlé's \$2.8 billion bid for Ferrier were highlights of the period. The average value of transactions in the first half of 1992 was \$17.9 billion against \$29.5 billion in 1990 and \$32.6 billion in 1989.

Williams expands

WILLIAMS Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, is acquiring the building components division of Charles Baynes, the specialist engineer, for £8.6 million in cash. The division comprises Ancon Stainless Steel Fixings, Ancon MBT (Couplers), and Harris & Edgar. Baynes said fundamental changes in the construction industry meant that the company's existing exposure to the sector was not appropriate for its long-term profile. The disposal will lift shareholders' funds by about 35 per cent to £27 million and increase its net cash to about £12 million.

Beckenham in the red

BECKENHAM Group, the ductwork engineering company that counted Olympia & York as a big client, plunged into the red in the first half of the year and is attempting to raise £1.9 million through a three-for-four rights issue. The company fell from a pre-tax profit of £746,000 to a loss of £771,000 in the six months to end-April. Turnover declined to £15.3 million (£26.5 million). There is a loss per share of 1.4p (1p profit) and no dividend (0.5p). A provision of £164,000 was made against contracts with Olympia & York.

Leisure group slips

TOMORROWS Leisure, the hotel, golf and leisure company that owns the Pleasure Island theme complex in Liverpool, saw pre-tax profits slip to £731,000, compared with £860,000, in the year to end-March. However, earnings per share rose to 6.5p (4.7p) and turnover increased 68 per cent to £7.5 million (£4.4 million). There is a dividend of 1.375p (1.25p) a share. Net assets trebled from £10.6 million to £30.8 million after a revaluation of the Pleasure Island site that opened in May.

Clarke Hooper slides

CLARKE Hooper, the marketing services group that in January declared an interim dividend but announced in March that it had decided not to pay it, saw profits turn into losses in the year ended April. Alan Penson, chief executive, says the swing from a 1991 year-end pre-tax profit of £2.05 million into 1992 pre-tax losses of £3.45 million reflects a poor second half and the impact of the recession. The shares were traded at 6p yesterday.

Denmans moves ahead

DENMANS Electrical, the Bristol electrical goods wholesaler, lifted pre-tax profits to £823,000 (£574,000) in the six months to the end of March. Turnover increased to £18.9 million (£17.8 million). Earnings per share rose to 12.7p (8.5p). There is an interim dividend of 1.8p (1.65p). Arnold Denman, the chairman, said that the increases were due to strict control of costs and working capital rather than any large pickup in sales.

Cartel busters 'raid 11'

ANOTHER two chemical companies have confirmed they were among PVC producers raided last week by cartel investigators from the European Commission. Solvay, the Belgian group, said its offices had been searched by EC officials in relation to an alleged European PVC price-fixing cartel. Norway's Norsk Hydro also confirmed that its British unit was raided but denied any violations of anti-trust laws. Investigators are believed to have carried out raids on 11 plastics firms.

Wasserstein refuses to devalue Isosceles

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

WASSERSTEIN Perella, the American corporate finance firm, has refused to write down the value of its \$350 million stake in Isosceles, the indebted supermarket group, although other shareholders have written off their investment completely.

Wasserstein said it had no plans to devalue the 40 per cent stake in the company. But bankers said the shares would be almost worthless after the latest refinancing. The firm said it does not review the value of any of its holdings for three years after the initial investment, but would consider its position with its auditors at the year-end.

In the past month, 31, the venture capital group, and its Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, the American supermarket group, have written off their shareholdings in Isosceles, while Mercury Asset Management, the investment manager, has made a substantial provision.

Wasserstein invested \$150 million in Isosceles when it took over the Gateway supermarket chain in 1989, and a further \$200 million in the refinancing at the beginning of last year. The funds came from the firm's \$1.1 billion

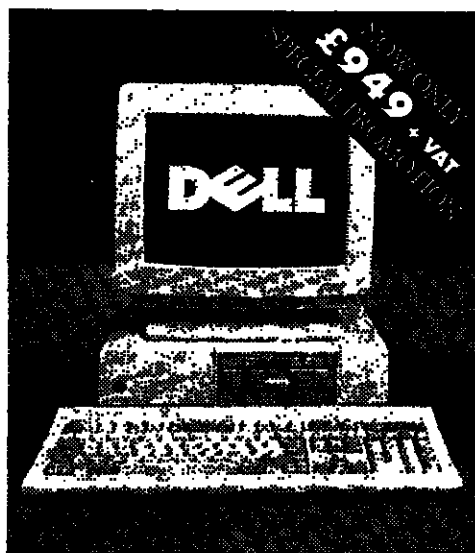
buyout fund, which it manages for major American institutions. The Isosceles stake accounts for almost half the funds invested.

A partner at Wasserstein said there were special reasons why other shareholders had devalued their holdings, and said that the shares would regain their value when trading at Isosceles improved. He said Wasserstein's stake was more valuable than the others because it contained five high-voting A shares, which gave the firm the right to veto any company motion.

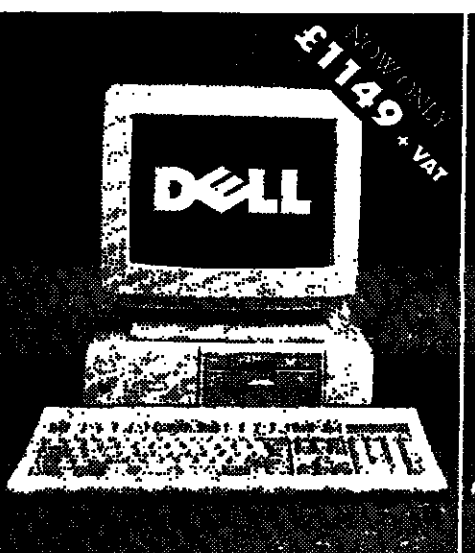
Meanwhile, Isosceles is expected to pass a test of its banking covenants at the end of the week, thanks to the provisional agreement reached by the main banking committee. The company will be tested on the lower standards of interest cover and operating profits it has agreed with the banks. If it had been tested under existing covenants, it would have been declared in default.

Isosceles' 50 banks are expected to reach formal agreement on the latest refinancing by the end of the month. The agreement will allow the group to proceed with its plans to develop the upmarket Somerfield food chain.

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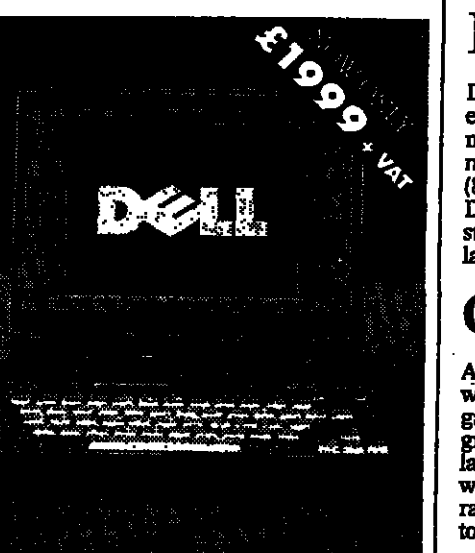
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Foreign investment in UK falls for first time in ten years

By ROSS TIERMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FOREIGN investment in Britain dropped last year for the first time in almost a decade. Although Britain remained the preferred destination in Europe for American and Japanese firms to set up subsidiaries or expand, attracting investment is becoming more difficult, according to the Invest in Britain Bureau (IBB).

The bureau expects a tough battle for the investment funds of cash-strapped companies in the United States and Japan. American firms have drawn in their horns because of the recession, while Japanese companies have seen their access to cash reduced by the problems of the Japanese financial system. In addition, competition for investment

funds from other areas of the world, including eastern Europe and the Pacific rim, is increasing.

In an effort to compensate, the bureau, part of the trade department, will mount a marketing effort in Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore in the hope of wooing firms from those countries to invest in the United Kingdom.

Malcolm Day, a director of IBB, said a drop in the number of foreign investment projects launched in Britain also reflected the UK's past success. Each of Japan's ten biggest electronic companies has already set up in Britain, and 95 of America's largest companies, measured by the Fortune 100 index, is already established.

"We have already got the major companies," Mr Day said. From now on, the average size of companies investing, and the amount of money spent, was likely to diminish.

In the year to March, foreign companies undertook 352 investment projects in Britain: about half of them involving expansion of existing plants. The projects are calculated to have created 22,714 jobs, and safeguarded 26,643 more.

However, the total number of jobs created or safeguarded, at 51,357, was down 16 per cent on the previous year, while the number of projects fell by 18.

American companies were easily the biggest overseas investors in Britain during 1991. Their subsidiaries initiated 104 investment projects, creating 8,225 jobs.

German companies were the next largest inward investors, starting 60 projects, creating 2,125 jobs. Japanese companies were in third place by number of projects, beginning 44 investments. But their projects tend to be especially labour intensive, and in total Japanese companies brought in 6,788 new jobs. France, The Netherlands and Sweden were the next most active investors.

According to the IBB, during the 39 years to the end of 1990, the United Kingdom attracted 37.5 per cent of total American direct investment in countries of the European Community.

During the 40 years to March 1991, the UK won 39 per cent of Japanese investment in Europe.

Mr Day said companies preferred Britain to other European locations because it was relatively easy to move goods in and out, because they could get the "right" workforce, and because corporation taxes were low.

However, concerns about skill levels were becoming more common.

The bureau was unable to say how much money foreign companies invest in Britain. However, the Welsh Development Agency said Wales secured more than £1 billion of overseas company investment during the year to March.

Wales took first place in the regional breakdown of investment destinations, claiming 71 projects.

The principal was followed by the North West, with 65. Industrial areas received a high proportion of the inflow funds, while the South East took sixth place with just 28 projects.

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Back to work again: the Hanson directorship is Kenneth Baker's first appointment since he left the government

Names await ruling

Lloyd's names will learn tomorrow whether they are free to press for a judicial review of the insurance market in the wake of a disastrous underwriting spell that has pushed many to the brink of bankruptcy.

Their right to do so is being contested by Lloyd's in a High Court action before Lord Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Poppelwell. Anthony Colman, QC, presented the argument for six applicants connected with the Gooda Walker Action Group, opposing Lloyd's motion to have leave for a judicial review set aside. Gordon Pollock, QC, presented the argument for Lloyd's.

Four syndicates formerly managed by Gooda Walker, face losses of £1 billion for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 underwriting years. The 2,250 members of the Gooda Walker Action Group have said they will pledge up to 2 per cent of their losses — or £20 million — towards the cost of legal action.

Details, page 11

WMI profits ahead

Waste Management International, which made an international public offering of 20 per cent of its capital in April at 585p a share, raising a net £405 million, made several significant acquisitions in the half year ended June, and expects to complete more deals before the year end.

The group achieved a pre-tax profit of £62.6 million for the six months, compared with £41.5 million in the first half of last year. Profit in the second quarter of 1992 was £35.3 million (£23.6 million). The shares rose 7p to 572p.

Parker fined

The European Commission has fined Britain's Parker Pen Holdings 700,000 ecus (£500,000) and Herlitz, of Germany, 40,000 ecus for operating an agreement that restricted sales of Parker pens within the European Community. The commission found that Parker and Herlitz had concluded an accord in August 1986 on the distribution of Parker Pen products in Germany. Under the accord, exports that did not have Parker's consent were prohibited.

Wise up

Pre-tax profits at Leslie Wise, the textiles group, rose 11.7 per cent to £1.5 million in the six months to end-March, on turnover 25 per cent higher at £22.8 million. The interim dividend is held at 1.75p.

Electricity deal 'could save pits'

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

MUCH of Britain's coal industry could be saved following privatisation if the regional electricity companies agreed to underwrite future production by guaranteeing to take most of their requirements from coal-fired stations, according to Malcolm Edwards, former commercial director of British Coal.

He also called for a two- or three-tier pricing structure, with those consumers needing certainty of supply paying the top rate. Big industrial users would pay less but would not be guaranteed power at any given time. This would allow some unprofitable pits to be kept open, he told a conference on coal privatisation in London yesterday.

Mr Edwards resigned from British Coal in February after a clash with Neil Clarke, the chairman. He said the eventual signing of the coal supply agreement could see a reduction in British Coal's sales to the generators from 70 million tonnes last year to 45 million tonnes from next March and perhaps 32 million tonnes in three years.

He said even with all the gas-fired plants now being built, a full commitment of the distributors' remaining franchise to British coal could lift that eventual figure by 10 million tonnes a year.

His ideas are unlikely to find favour with the power industry, not least because they would imply higher prices if the industry was denied cheaper imported coal.

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Hong Kong unveils secret HK\$236bn exchange fund

FROM LULU YU IN HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong government yesterday lifted the veil from its secret exchange fund to demonstrate the colony's financial strength.

Hamish Macleod, the financial secretary, said the fund grew to HK\$236 billion (£15.9 billion) by the end of last year. It was created 57 years ago to maintain the stability of the local currency.

The Hong Kong dollar became so weak at times that in 1983 the government pegged it to the US dollar at US\$1 to HK\$7.80. The fund was kept secret to prevent speculative pressures on the exchange rate. The size of the fund exceeded market expectations of up to HK\$150 billion, and was welcomed by China.

Mr Chen Zuo'er, a senior Peking official, said last night it was good to see Hong Kong increase the transparency of its monetary system. He said

enormous funds were needed for infrastructure projects.

Mr Macleod said he decided to drop the policy of confidentiality because "public servants owe the community a duty of frankness and openness on important matters of public policy". This would give lenders and credit rating agencies a more realistic assessment of Hong Kong's creditworthiness.

"By publishing an annual balance sheet setting out the size of the fund and its accumulated earnings, we will be able to demonstrate Hong Kong's impressive financial strength," he said.

The fund had accumulated earnings of HK\$99 billion, and comprised foreign currency assets of US\$29 billion, the largest portion of it in US dollars. On foreign currency holdings Hong Kong ranked twelfth in the world, while on

gross domestic product the colony ranked 34th. The new open policy is seen as a big confidence booster for the Hong Kong economy.

The announcement of the fund came on the eve of crucial talks between Britain and China over the construction of a £9 billion airport. Despite an agreement on the project last July, Peking has refused to give approval on financing arrangements spanning 1997.

Analysts believe the government wanted to use Hong Kong's financial strength to allay China's fears that fiscal reserves would be drained before the handover.

Apart from the exchange fund, Hong Kong has fiscal reserves of HK\$76 billion at the end of 1991, and land revenues of HK\$25 billion.

Airport delay, page 11

Baker joins board at Hanson

HANSON, the acquisitive industrial conglomerate, has appointed Kenneth Baker, the former home secretary, as a non-executive director.

The post is Mr Baker's first since he left the cabinet, although he held several directorships before he joined the government in 1981 as minister for information technology at the trade and industry department. He was environment secretary from 1985 to 1986 and then education secretary until 1989, when he became chairman of the Conservative party.

Lord Hanson, the chairman, said that not only had Mr Baker a distinguished record in government, he would bring experience of industry and commerce. Hanson has shaken up the board this year with the appointment of Derek Bonham as chief executive, and the promotion of David Clarke as chief executive of the US arm.

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Oxford Forecasting sees signs of hope

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WORLD economic conditions give continued cause for "gentle optimism", despite a marked deterioration in sentiment since the beginning of this year, Oxford Economic Forecasting says.

Its summer assessment of the leading industrial economies, out today, concludes that the bullish confidence at the start of the year, and the general

Bulmers takes bigger bite of the cider apple

AS THE only quoted cider maker, if only for the next few days, HP Bulmer could not have picked a better moment to peel off its best result for years, a 19 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £17.1 million, and will have rubbed salt into the wounds of the Taunton Cider team an hour or two before they pulled down the shutters on their offer for sale.

To liken the traditionalist Bulmer business to the racier, badge-drinking image of Taunton's products is, however, to compare apples with pears. John Rudgard, Bulmer chief executive says, and he disputes his Somerset rival's claim that it has been primarily responsible for recent growth in the market. The evidence is there for all to see, he says. In the six months to June, the cider market grew 8 per cent, and Bulmer's cider sales 16 per cent. Scrumphy Jack is outselling Red Rock.

But this is largely to miss the point. The cider market is growing at the expense of beer, down 7 per cent last year on average. There is plenty of room for both.

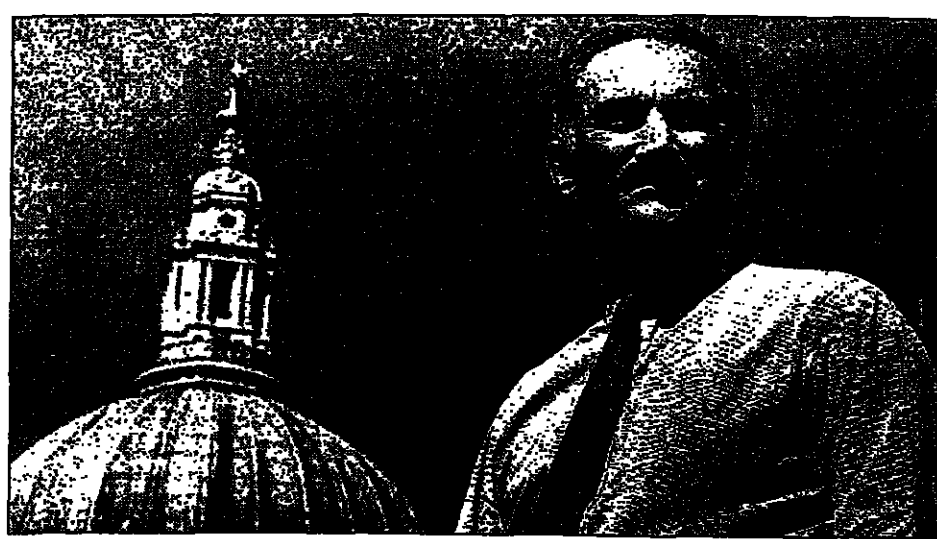
Aside from the more proven

qualities of its Strongbow and Woodpecker brands, Bulmer claims an advantage in its diversification. The case remains shaky. Although Australian cider profits grew by 18 per cent, the San Miguel and Red Stripe distributorships could not buck the decline in beer sales, while Perrier, Orangina and Kir, the soft drink brands, failed to escape the 6 per cent slide in the marketplace.

Bulmer has invested £46 million over the past four years to underwrite its position as market leader, and a lot more on advertising. Gearing has edged up to 27.3 per cent, but interest cover is healthy enough at 5.6 times. The group should top £19 million this time, for earnings of more than 22p a share, which would value the shares at 13.6 times earnings at last night's 300p. No premium over Taunton, but then Bulmer offers no bid prospect.

Anglia Homes

THE worrying thing about Anglia Secure Homes, the builder of sheltered housing,



Debt vertigo: Peter Edmondson, the chairman of Anglia Secure Homes

is that it has not made a profit for three years. Each year it writes down the value of its unsold stock and land bank and each following year it reports yet another loss.

This cannot go on forever, as the virtual halving in an already devastated share price, to 6.5p, showed. The

£5.1 million pre-tax loss for the six months to end-March has reduced shareholders' funds to under £11 million. True, net debt has fallen, but only from £34.3 million to £30.1 million. Gearing, therefore, is a veritable 278 per cent. Not surprisingly, the company is in regular contact

the interim dividend again looks the least of its problems.

Sales appear to have collapsed. In the six months, the company sold 72 units, compared to 139 sold in the already depressed market of a year ago. Turnover of £6.6 million included £2.1 million from Haven Services, its joint venture with CU.

A reduced average selling price of £60,000 suggests the stock of 360 completed but unsold units is worth around £21.6 million, with the 469-unit land bank and work in progress valued at around £13 million. Anglia's survival looks a close run thing.

Wyko

WYKO may well have performed better in the second half than it did in the first, but overall results for the year ended April 30 are still disappointing.

The stop-go-stop mood of customers in committing their companies to spend left Wyko uncertain about the flow of orders, and but for the profit and turnover contribution from EW Bearings,

which it took over on October 1, pre-tax profits might have been even lower than the £13.8 million (£1.53 million) reported, on sales of £55.5 million (£48.4 million). But the real damage comes at the net level with earnings down 43.6 per cent at 2.37p. The damage follows a 51.5 per cent tax charge, and the issue of extra shares.

The dividend is maintained at a total 2.8p a share, but at the expense of dipping into reserves to pay the increased £904,000 bill.

There is, however, some glimmer of hope. First-quarter trading in the international division is somewhat better. The Bearings acquisition has been integrated, so there is operational gearing potential to savour once there is a tick in economic activity. Gearing is down from 59 per cent to 24 per cent.

Pre-tax profits could advance to £2 million this year, to put the shares at 57p on 14.3 times prospective earnings. They have recovery potential, but until the economy does tick, the speculative edge remains.

Continental wins voting rights case

CONTINENTAL, fresh from a victory over Italian suitor Pirelli, scored another win yesterday when a court ruled a majority of 75 per cent was required to abolish its defence against hostile takeovers.

The ruling by the State High Court of Lower Saxony in Celle confirms a decision by Continental's annual meeting in 1989 that never took effect as it was contested by Andreas Nolte, a shareholder. Continental lost the first round of its battle with Mr Nolte when a Hanover district court on December 20, 1990 agreed it had failed to follow the appropriate procedures by not clearly stating in the invitation to the annual meeting that a change to the voting rights limitation was proposed.

The move by Continental to tighten the requirements for scrapping its voting rights limit was initiated more than a year before Pirelli embarked on its failed plan to merge the tyre operations of the two firms in September 1990.

Continental adopted the 5 per cent limit on the voting rights of any shareholder in 1984 as a defence against such hostile takeovers.

WORLD MARKETS

Light profit-taking trims US blue chips

New York — Shares were mixed in morning trading as some light profit-taking sapped the strength of the Dow Jones industrial average, although general and secondary shares were firmer. The Dow average slipped 1.39 points to 3,357 after a brief, early rally.

□ Tokyo — The market staged a technical recovery, but the Nikkei index closed only modestly firmer after giving up early gains. The Nikkei rose 52.29 points, or 0.31 per cent, to 17,116.92. Turnover rose to about 240 million shares, compared with 209 million shares on Tuesday. Some buying of issues that were supported by special factors and arbitrage programs underpinned prices, but most investors remained on the sidelines amid a lack of incentives. Rising issues outnumbered falls by about three to two, with 533 shares higher, 347 lower and 215 unchanged.

□ Frankfurt — Dealings slowed to a crawl before today's Bundesbank council

meeting as a mixed bag of views on what the central bank will do to curb rampant money supply growth forced investors to take to the sidelines. The Dax index ended 0.52 of a point higher at 1,734.62. Prices have lost about 1.25 per cent since last Friday because of a growing fear that Germany's central bank will tighten credit.

□ Hong Kong — Prices finished higher as funds and small investors switched to selected second-liners in thin, subdued trading. The blue-chip Hang Seng index closed up 28.27 points, or 0.46 per cent, at 6,125.46.

□ Singapore — Bank and marine shares fell in moderate volume on poor sentiment and liquidation of positions in lacklustre trade. The Straits Times industrial index slipped 2.63 points to 1,481.15.

□ Sydney — Shares closed slightly lower with investors depressed about prospects for the economy. The all-ordinaries index closed 2.1 points down at 1,636.7.

(Reuters)

STOCK MARKETS

Building sector suffers on broker's worst-case view

THE prospect of an early recovery in the recession-hit building industry appears to be becoming increasingly remote with each day that passes.

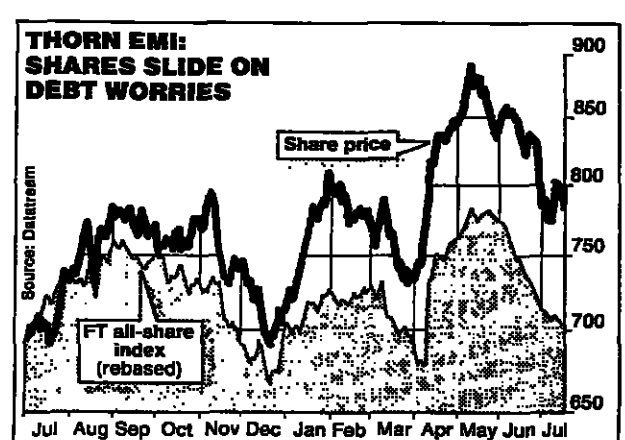
Shares in the sector have been under a cloud for some time and were again under pressure yesterday. County NatWest, the broker, has warned clients that in future forecasts are likely to be based on the worst-case scenario for the industry. This anticipates that no recovery will be in progress until 1994 at the earliest.

That scenario would lead to an industry-wide series of redundancies, plant closures, stock write-offs and asset write-downs. The warning found its target among the building suppliers with losses recorded in Meyer International, 10p to 316p, BPB Industries, 2p to 143p, Blue Circle Industries, 4p to 206p, Hepworth, 3p to 347p, Pilkington, 6p to 107p, RMC Group, 10p to 526p, Redland, 9p to 464p, and Tarmac, 2p to 85p.

The builders also came under pressure with Anglia Secure Homes halving to 6p, after trading news. Best Brothers 6p, lower at 55p, EBC Group 5p to 88p, Havlock Europe 2p to 58p, Taylor Woodrow 5p to 70p, and Wilson Bowden 4p to 356p.

It was not the best backdrop for Anglian Windows, making its public debut. The price opened at 203p, before recovering some of its poise to close at 205p compared with the original offer price of 210p.

Dealers said it was inevitable that the shares would open at a discount after receiving



such a poor response from investors. Of the 39 million shares on offer, only 6 per cent were taken up by the public. The building sector has fallen 7 per cent since the issue was priced.

But dealers say it may also bode badly for other sectors, where new issues are in the pipeline. This includes the

of 16p to 300p on the back of strong trading results.

The rest of the equity market spent another volatile session amid growing fears of a possible rise in interest rates in the wake of sterling's continued weakness against the mark. Prices were marked sharply higher first thing but the appearance of a big seller

Not everyone was impressed with the figures from Tomkins, down 2p to 477p, showing profits 18 per cent up at £132 million. Yamachi said there are problems ahead. Margins are under pressure and costs have already been cut to the bone. The shares are expected to underperform until firm signs of recovery.

stores sector, where MFI is due to begin trading on Friday after another poor take-up by the small investor. There were falls for Alexon, 4p to 213p, Austin Reed, 7p to 228p, Lloyds Chemists, 11p to 269p, and Next, 2p to 89p.

However, the drinks sector appeared calm ahead of the Taunton flotation. Rival HP Bulmer even managed a rise

said demand for oil products, which rose by 1.6 per cent in the first half of this year, was not expected to improve substantially in the second half.

He noted that the first-half increase resulted from low level comparisons a year earlier rather than any real strength in demand this year. "We don't have a forecast, but I expect no substantial increase in demand in the second half."

He noted demand for jet

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No subsidy please we're British

Those sceptical about the existence of level playing fields in Europe are having a good summer. Hard on the heels of the French government's substantial aid package for Groupe Bull, its so-called champion in the computing field, comes further news of a state-approved cash injection into Air France. British businessmen tend to be dismayed at the sight of French and other continental competitors benefiting from direct or indirect state aid. By contrast, the British Treasury and Department of Trade are stony hearted and empty handed. The French appear masters in the art of making regulations work their way. When no import controls are allowed, imported lamb is hijacked and burnt. Japanese videos were once directed through a single customs post where documentation was processed at snail's pace.

The bad old days are supposed to be over. But many warmly welcomed the angry reaction of Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine when he protested at the EC Commission's approval of the Bull deal, saying that aid on such a scale would seriously distort competition in the computer industry.

The captains of British industry are wary of politicians attempting to play god in the market place. The past two decades are littered with dud investment decisions where politics over-rode hard commercial logic. Britain's industrialists do not generally favour an interventionist Whitehall, but are growing increasingly uneasy at what they fear may be unfair aid elsewhere.

ASB forges ahead

David Tweedie insisted on going back to basic principles as the first task of the Accounting Standards Board before it started reforming detailed accounting standards. Things have not quite worked out that way. A controversial new standard on profit and loss accounts is likely to be promulgated this autumn before all the responses to yesterday's draft central chapters of the statement of principles come back from industry and the profession. The sense of the ASB chairman's order of priorities is still evident, for the principles were informing detailed work even as they were being drawn up.

They will underwrite further changes in future. Mere definitions of assets and liabilities that can be recognised in a company's accounts imply wide-ranging changes to other existing accounting standards which make sense in isolation. Discussion will be vigorous, but it will be hard to dispute, for instance, that contractually fixed future streams of benefits and payments are assets and liabilities, which would drastically restrict the scope for excluding any significant lease deals from balance sheets. Likewise, acquirers or new-broom managers will find it hard to sustain the argument for writing off big, roughly estimated advance provisions for "reorganisation" if a liability is sensibly defined as requiring a obligation. The ASB is venturing into new territory of its own, particularly on the practical tests for whether items should be included in companies' accounts. This leading role is just what the ASB was set up to provide.

Today's results from Great Universal Stores may reveal little about the group, though there is a mood for change, writes William Kay

Great Universal Stores, which publishes its annual results today is the enigma among retailers. Privately controlled, tightly run, the company fends off enquiries with the zeal of a secret society. Yet pressure is mounting for change at GUS, which in its modern shape is effectively the creation of the late Sir Isaac Wolfson.

John Chataway, of Carr Kitch & Aitken, the stockbroker that is one of the City's closest followers of GUS, says: "With no one to follow in the family footsteps, Sir Isaac's son, Lord Wolfson, who is 64 and a working peer in the House of Lords, is faced with a management succession problem. A possible answer might be breaking up the GUS empire into various component parts and refashioning of the individual companies on the London Stock Exchange."

Mr Chataway says the component parts of the group — they embrace the Burberrys, Scotch House retail names and the Kays, Marshall Ward and John England mail order brands — are worth comfortably in excess of the stock's present market value of £3.8 billion. He believes that the wheels were set in motion for a break-up of the group before the 1987 stock market crash, and that by next year all the main operating divisions should be earning record profits, underpinned by recovering property values. But it is certain that such a revolutionary change would require the management to endure countless agonies over the torrent of revelations about the business that would be necessary to meet the inevitable prospectus requirements. The group's current reporting policies show how painful this would be.

Twice a year, in order to comply with Stock Exchange regulations, GUS publishes an account of its trading. These bulletins normally depict a pebble-smooth progression that defies belief, so well ordered and seemingly immune to external factors are they. But Coopers & Lybrand, Deloitte, the auditor, certifies that the accounts give a true and fair view, and outsiders can expect no more. These announcements are accompanied by an annual report of about 24 pages, one of the most spartan of any company of a comparable size. Despite sales of close to £3 billion a year, the divisional review runs to the equivalent of one page, unsupported by figures. None of this is improper, and indeed there is a respectable case for the claim that such terseness is in shareholders' interests. Why tell the competition more than you have to?

But an argument of similar strength could be made for the view that a greater willingness to explain might attract more shareholders, leading to a higher share price and



Voting with their feet: consumers still prefer the high street to shopping by phone and in catalogues

easier access to capital. However, such benefits have meant little to the management of GUS. Lord Wolfson would find it difficult to fund an acquisition by issuing voting shares, as he and his late father have shown reluctance to dilute the holding of the Wolfson Foundation which, together with the board's shares, come to more than 50 per cent. The alternative, issuing non-voting shares, has become unacceptable to the investment community.

There has been discreet lobbying for GUS to enfranchise its 240 million non-voting A shares, which dwarf the 5.4 million all-powerful voting shares. Sir Isaac's death last year prompted speculation that GUS would at last bow to this pressure. SG Warburg, the merchant bank that advises GUS, would earn significant fees from that decision. However, its broking subsidiary concedes: "Assuming the company is reasonably satisfied with its average rating in the market, there is no financial logic to enfranchisement. We cannot see why the company should do so."

That suggests that Warburg may

have pointed out to its client the advantages of a buoyant share price, but found its honeyed words falling on deaf ears. As for access to capital, last year's balance sheet showed long-term creditors of £46 million, compared with £474 million cash and shareholders' funds of £2.8 billion. Warburg Securities says: "One of the main features of GUS is the vast cash balances that the group has been able to build up over the years. What is especially significant about the balance sheet is that it is underpinned by conservative accounting policies."

Warburg loyally denies that the succession to Lord Wolfson is a cause for concern, as the handover will be handled "extremely smoothly". Their stockbroking analysts say: "The most important feature about the GUS management team is, not so much the individuals involved, but rather the ethos or philosophy that envelops the group and creates a particular management style." That philosophy is based on cash maximisation, protecting net

asset value, and being cost leaders in all operations. The formula has proved its worth in the current prolonged recession. Mr Chataway says: "Earnings growth in 1991-2 should again compare very favourably with other stores shares, while I look for growth of almost 10 per cent in 1992-3."

Nearly half the group's profits come from home shopping, as mail order is known these days. Most of it is based in the UK, but GUS also has operations in Austria, Sweden, Switzerland and The Netherlands. Those in the industry pay tribute to GUS's ability to select marketing options to suit changing conditions, striking out with "specialised" one year, protecting market share by trimming prices another year. In recent years, the group has moved towards direct selling, cutting out agents' 10 per cent commission, but also sacrificing the consumer loyalty that agents brought. Now many mail order customers collect several catalogues at a time and flit from one to another.

Another recent trend has been towards telephone ordering. This is

aimed at avoiding what was once the recurrent headache of postal strikes. Ultimately, electronic services like Prestel and Cable TV will become the main ordering method, but the company is being typically cautious towards these innovations. The question mark over home shopping is whether it can halt its decline as a proportion of the total retail market. Postal strikes, the last of which was in 1988, and recession seem to take tolls that are never fully replaced. But the bigger worry is whether there is a structural shift taking place.

Historically, a main attraction of mail order was the ready availability of credit, in return for which many customers were willing to await delivery. That is why the sector sells mainly to poorer consumers. Says Warburg: "Over the past five years, the general home shopping offer has not really given value for money, excitement or even convenience or efficiency." The home shopping strategy is based on being the lowest price, but these operations are bolstered by profits from GUS's financial services division, which includes the vital credit-checking function.

The financial services arm of GUS includes an authorised bank, an insurance company, a computerised credit-control system and General Guarantee, a hire purchase and leasing business. All these subsidiaries serve third parties, including other mail order houses. However, they have inevitably been hit by the recession's impact on activity. The only saving grace has been the benefit from high interest rates on cash balances. GUS is also shielded from the worst of the recession by property.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the group made a series of retail acquisitions, of which Burberrys and Scotch House are virtually all it has held on to. However, when it sold such businesses as Times Furnishing and Stones Electrical, it kept their freeholds and long leaseholds. Consequently, according to Warburg, it has a rental income amounting to £53 million in the year just ended. Burberrys and Scotch House are far more dependent on foreign than British customers. So, although they suffered during last year's Gulf war, trading has been relatively recession-proof. Burberrys also has a chain of outlets in America, the Far East and continental Europe, most of which are franchised.

The forthcoming figures will be scanned eagerly by analysts and competitors, seeking clues to what is going on inside the group's anonymous London office in Tottenham Court Road. They are likely to be disappointed. But there is reason to believe that some important overseas retailing and mail order companies will be perusing the latest results with more than usual interest. For another way of arranging the succession at GUS would be to forge an alliance with the likes of Sears Roebuck of America or Germany's Otto Versand. The resulting infusion of management talent could allow Lord Wolfson to spend more time on his many private interests — while ensuring that the secrets of GUS remain shielded from the common gaze.

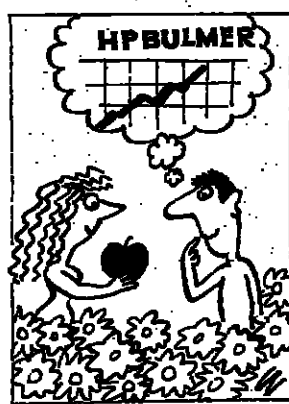
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Clash of styles

AN INCREASINGLY aggressive approach to European securities at Robert Fleming has led to the departure of Neale Stevenson, one of the directors on its European sales desk. Stevenson, a former electronics analyst, with Fleming for five years, was asked to leave last week because of what Chris Munro, his boss, calls "a clash of management styles. He is a very good salesman but his style was different to ours." Munro, head of UK and European agency broking at Fleming, agrees that the culture there has altered. "The UK side is fine, it is doing very well, but it has taken us a long time to get the European side organised." Fleming's European recruitment drive has seen an influx of new faces from Salomon Brothers, including David Gammon, a Spanish expert, and Martin Murch, a building sector specialist. Gammon will be moving to Madrid at the end of this year, to open a new office. Betina Kuntz, who has resigned from Deutschebank after 18 years, is due to join on November 1. Kuntz will be responsible for all German sales and research.

Tight lines

AS JOURNALISTS from around the world telephoned George Westropp, Touche Ross communications director, at the height of the disclosures about BCCI — because Touche is the global liquidator of the failed bank — little did



they know that they were his excuse for writing a book about his "consuming hobby", trout fishing. Westropp, 48, once a financial journalist, was persuaded to return to his typewriter by his friend, Lt Col Sir John Baynes, who runs a sporting hotel beside Lake Vyrnwy in Wales — the biggest artificial reservoir in Europe — and the venue for many of Westropp's fishing trips. Westropp says he and Baynes, a former commander of the Cameron Highlanders, co-wrote the book *Lake Vyrnwy: The Story of a Sporting Hotel*. "The bank failed in September/October last year and I was receiving press calls from all over the world," Westropp says. "Once the European journalists had finished for the day, the US and then Far Eastern journalists started to call and I found it almost impossible to sleep as the phone went round the clock. I decided that if I was not allowed to sleep I had better do something with my time in the wee small hours." It is a collaboration of which Westropp's late father would have approved.

Edward Westropp, once City editor of the *Sunday Express*, was a friend of Baynes' father, Sir Roy Baynes.

Woman to woman

THE Labour party is taking great pains to choose a shadow minister to field against Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, who has won fans in certain quarters for her feminine and *sympatico* style. Sources within the Labour party say it has decided against an aggressive type, such as Tony Blair, and is likely to opt instead for the softer attributes of Welsh-born Ann Clwyd, former Labour spokeswoman for overseas development and co-operation, who is standing for the post of deputy leader. It remains to be seen, however, which of the women will prove the more entertaining in the dispatch box. Shephard yesterday told journalists: "Though I'm a pragmatist, I have disturbing Jacobin tendencies, which, at times, have to be hidden."

TONY Lea, a non-executive director of a Charter Consolidated, the industrial holding group, can walk into its annual meeting on August 4 with a smile on his face, confident that he will not be attacked as he was at the last annual meeting. In 1991, a shareholder demanded to know why Lea, alone among Charter's directors, held no shares in the company. Charter's annual report, distributed this week, reveals that Lea has since bought 100 Charter shares, currently worth 493p each.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Lloyd's committed to change

From the Chairman of Lloyd's of London

Sir, Ian Hay Davison, the chief executive at Lloyd's between 1983 and 1986, championed the cause of effective self-regulation for the Lloyd's insurance market (*Business News*, July 9). It does him no credit that he seems to close his eyes to the continuing commitment shown by the Council of Lloyd's to strengthening our regulatory framework whenever this is shown to be necessary.

We have not stood still since the end of Mr Davison's time at Lloyd's. The Council has accepted the recommendations of the working party on a new structure of governance for Lloyd's under the chairmanship of Sir Jeremy Morse, one of the eight nominated members of the Council. I was pleased to note Mr Davison's support for the separation of regulation from the development of the business, which Sir Jeremy has recommended.

Mr Davison believes, however, that the recommendations do not go far enough and he foresees that a future mar-

ket chairman of the new look Council might seek to "recapture the regulatory ground as his own preserve". He has overlooked two important points. First, the composition of the regulatory board. Of its 14 members, only four will be working members of Lloyd's and these will not include the market chairman of Lloyd's. The remaining ten will comprise external members, nominated members (whose appointments, as now, will be subject to approval by the Governor of the Bank of England) and two senior officials of the Corporation of Lloyd's. The structure is, therefore, weighted heavily in favour of the external members and the public interest. This appears to have escaped Mr Davison's notice. Second, the chairman of the regulatory board will be one of the four nominated members of the Council, which provides a guarantee of independence.

Yours faithfully, D. E. COLERIDGE, Chairman, Lloyd's of London, One Lime Street, EC3.

Banks and the Mirror Group pensioners

From R. S. Attack

Sir, I see that smiling Sir John Cuckney has been given (presumably by the government) the unenviable task of going round, cap in hand, to various generous companies and City bodies that may or may not feel a degree of responsibility in the matter of the swindled Maxwell pensioners.

Why, however, is it necessary to go looking for donations when the provision already exists under English law for anyone in receipt of stolen goods to surrender them? Surely, some of the

securities which Maxwell lodged with the various banks are retrievable?

Why are the banks not to be compelled to give these up? At the very least they could make "donations".

Sir John's operation is a sop to the Mirror Group pensioners and the taxpayer, both of whom will bear the main cost of this mega-theft when all the hue and cry has died down.

Yours faithfully, R. S. ATTACK, Flat 1, Flamborough Close, Harrow.

YOU could benefit from an offshore investment in Swiss Francs

Lower interest rates can make it difficult to secure real long-term rates of return, but many investors are now recognising the opportunities provided by bond investments.

Investors around the world choose to hold bond investments denominated in Swiss Francs, a hard currency which has historically enjoyed a low exposure to political and economic risk.

Now you can protect a part of your capital from a fall in sterling and obtain the benefit of investing in first-class Swiss Franc denominated bonds — by purchasing units in the conservative investment scheme of B.I.A. Bond Investments AG.

"B.I.A." is a well known Swiss investment company, and its scheme is recognised by the UK Securities and Investments Board, listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, and authorised in Hong Kong.

B.I.A.'s Swiss Franc bond scheme is similar to a unit trust. Investors benefit from any increase in B.I.A.'s Swiss Franc denominated unit prices and from any currency gain that may arise.

B.I.A.'s investment portfolio of first class Swiss Franc bonds and deposits is conservatively managed to maximise capital growth. Income is reinvested.

B.I.A.'s anonymous "bearer" units can be bought or sold at any time. B.I.A.'s prices are quoted daily in the FT in Swiss Francs — each unit now costs about £350.

Further details are available to investors and advisers from B.I.A. representatives. International Investment Consultants Ltd., who have approved this advertisement.

Please note that the price of units can go down as well as up, and investors may not get back the amount that they invested. The Sterling value of units will increase or decrease depending on exchange rate movements.

Please send me information on B.I.A.
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Portfolio
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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won a share of the share price money prize. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share
1	Anglo Plc	Drugs/Pharm	100
2	Decca	Property	100
3	Imperial Chemical Industries	Chemicals	100
4	Morrison (W)	Food	100
5	Shell	Oil/Gas	100
6	British Gas	Utilities	100
7	British Telecom	Telecom	100
8	W. & A. Water	Water	100
9	Vodafone	Telecom	100
10	Powell Duffryn	Transport	100
11	Cable News	Media	100
12	Procter & Gamble	Consumer Goods	100
13	British Airways	Air Transport	100
14	British Water	Water	100
15	News International	Media	100
16	British Steel	Steel	100
17	British Airways	Air Transport	100
18	British Airways	Air Transport	100
19	British Airways	Air Transport	100
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26	British Airways	Air Transport	100
27	British Airways	Air Transport	100
28	British Airways	Air Transport	100
29	British Airways	Air Transport	100
30	British Airways	Air Transport	100

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily total for the week ending 15.00 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

Mr G Fitzsimon, of Muswell Hill, London, won the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday.

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

BREWERIES

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

BUILDING, ROADS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld Div % P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

DRAPERY, STORES

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

ELECTRICALS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

INDUSTRIALS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

HOTELS, CATERERS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

Shares still in doldrums

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 13. Dealings end July 27. Settlement day August 3. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld Div % P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

ELECTRICITY

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

FINANCE, LAND

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

FOODS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

HOTELS, CATERERS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld Div % P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

INSURANCE

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

OILS, GAS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

TRANSPORT

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld Div % P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

PROPERTY

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

SHOES, LEATHER

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

TEXTILES

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

TOBACCO

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

WATER

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld Div % P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

LEISURE

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

MINING

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

MOTOR, AIRCRAFT

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

OILS, GAS

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TOBACCO

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E

WATER

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Net Yld	Div %	P/E



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ACCOUNTANCY TIMES

Abolitionists are 'both misguided and wrong'

Limited liability means small firms must accept the audit

David Bishop believes that the audit is more of a help than a hindrance to small companies and should not be removed

AT A time when the auditing profession is under unprecedented attack for, at best, naively and, at worst, duplicity as a result of a series of corporate failures, each more spectacular than the last, it is perhaps not surprising there are again carefully orchestrated calls for the abolition of the small company audit. However, those who advocate abolition are not only misguided and wrong, but also rely on a simplistic argument to justify the unjustifiable.

It would be foolish to pretend nothing is wrong with the auditing process. This is understood and is the reason why the Accountancy Standards Board, the Auditing Practices Board, and the Cadbury Committee, is seeking and finding ways of improving the accounting and auditing process and judgment. But to argue that the problems with the audit and the welfare of small companies would consequently be improved by its abolition requires a huge leap of the imagination.

Small companies are subject to an audit because they have chosen to have the protection of limited liability. Therefore, if the business goes bust, the directors cannot be forced to repay all the company's debts from their personal assets. If this legal protection did not exist, few people would start down the entrepreneurial road and the sanity of those who did would be rightly questioned. However, limited liability must be a two-way process. The budding entrepreneur must be prepared to open his or her books to protect the interests of potential customers, creditors, business associates and the public.

There is a simple principle involved: no audit, no protection. Those who choose not to have an audit should not enjoy

the privileges of limited liability. That is why the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants remains resolute in its belief that the statutory audit must remain.

Nevertheless, there are some who continue to argue that the audit is unnecessary for small companies and that most would prosper if this "imposition" was withdrawn. The reverse is true. Recent statistics from France indicate that although there are three times as many unaudited companies as audited, there were no fewer than eight times as many bankruptcies among unaudited companies. Therefore, the audit should not be seen negatively, as a bureaucratic hindrance to the development of small companies, but as an aid to their survival and growth. Moreover, it is easy to assume that the small company sector plays a relatively

unimportant part in the economy of the country. This is just not true. The legal definition of a small company is one that has less than £2 million turnover, fewer than 50 employees and total assets of less than £975,000. The most recent information indicates that out of 2.5 million firms in this country, 98 per cent employ less than 50 people, providing 42.6 per cent of the country's employment and 23.1 per cent of its turnover.

The audit is undoubtedly an essential tool in raising finance and obtaining contracts. Banks and other financial institutions rely on it when deciding upon lending companies. Large companies use it for assessing financial management, competence, and financial stability when considering dealership appointments and supply contracts. Tax inspectors are more likely to agree assessments when accounts have been audited and credit rating agencies use the audit when compiling status reports.

Traditionally, the Inland Revenue has found the statutory audit useful in providing tax officials with authorised information on company accounts. The UK, currently, is notable among European countries for the relatively small number of tax inspectors employed to monitor such accounts. Those who call for the abolition of the audit should remember that the



"No audit, no protection": David Bishop favours the benefits of limited liability

amount of money spent on tax inspection in this country is considerably less than elsewhere. In addition, the burden of small businesses would face if an IR audit was imposed on them would be greater than the fees attached to the statutory audit.

Given the importance of small companies, it is right that we should be seeking ways constantly to encourage them. For example, the current penalties imposed on

companies that no longer wish to have limited liability status should be relaxed. It should also be made more difficult to form a limited company.

However, there is no justification for the wholesale abolition of the audit requirement and we trust the government will ask those who are lobbying for it to think again.

The author is president of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

The tax haven may have had its day

YOU can tell that the world has turned upside down. A chartered accountant MP has introduced a bill in the House of Commons to stop anyone, accountants included, from having any transactions with tax havens. Back in the good old days of tax avoidance (never evasion, surely), it was all a bit of a game. In the late 1970s extremely bright young accountants would joust with the Inland Revenue. The result of their efforts would be the saving of a huge amount of tax for a client or series of clients. But the real point of it was in the game. At a time of extraordinarily high tax rates and hugely complex legislation it was a question of thinking laterally and producing a scheme which somehow squeezed past the Revenue's defences.

There was an air of the Edwardian short story about it. Bright young men came up with discoveries which enabled them seemingly to defy gravity. There was an innocence surrounding the practitioners. Ron Plummer and Roy Tucker, who as the brains behind Rossminster came up with the most famous schemes, were reputed to have honed their knowledge of the legislation on their way into work. One of them on a bicycle, one of them running alongside. The one shouting out the numbers of the clauses, the other shouting back the relevant measures that they contained.

No one seemed to get hurt. But the problems arose when high tax rates became low tax rates. Any moral justification for running assets through an extraordinary cross-border, cross-country race evaporated. What the recession of the late 1980s has exposed is that the story is different when the pensioners of the Maxwell empire discover that while the UK company has no cash to pay pensions, other parts of the empire can shelter their responsibilities behind tax haven secrecy.

Hence the need for the remarkably sensible legislation put forward by David Shaw, the Conservative MP for Dover, last week in his Transactions with Tax Havens (Sanctions) Bill.

The beauty of Shaw's effort is that it approaches the problem head-on and avoids the traditional method of picking one's way, compromise after compromise, through the minefield of special interests. The problem with many recent scandals, Barlow Clowes, BCCI, Maxwell, for example, is that ultimately the real pattern of the business is lost in the secrecy of tax haven law. So you come up with a simple answer — no UK company, or its advisers, can legally have anything to do with a tax haven which could put their money out of reach of UK citizens.

Shaw is not concerned with the traditional benefits of tax havens — the low rates of tax. It is the secrecy that concerns him. The closed doors which stop the recovery of Maxwell pensioners' money are the real target. In his draft bill, the definition of a tax haven is "a country which does not have laws which require the disclosure of corporate, trust or personal information to an interested United Kingdom person in the event of a monetary

loss taking place; and (ii) provide for the recovery of such money". In other words, he is attacking the problem at its heart. The romantic view of tax havens has changed. "The use of the words 'tax havens' is less and less appropriate as they become more and more fraud havens", he argued in the House.

In the past ten years, there have been nine Department of Trade and Industry company investigations which have found extensive details of fraud involving Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Those DTI investigations also detailed the part that other tax havens have played in assisting frauds through the provision of a cloak of secrecy behind which crooks can operate.

Secrecy, which provided the only means of support for banks such as BCCI, is the target. The romantic days of the Bunkle books, when the hero's parents used to pop across the Swiss border to organise some funds, are over. Shaw knows, the world knows, that only villains do that these days. But he takes the proposed legislation further. Being an accountant, he knows that it is not just corporate skulduggery that has to be curtailed. "One has only to look at the large firms of UK accountants that maintain associate offices in the tax havens to see how big the business has become," he said. Hence, clause 6(ii) in his draft bill: "An individual accountant or firm of accountants which is authorised in the United Kingdom under Companies Acts to carry out audits may not maintain an office in a tax haven or any association with a firm of accountants or lawyers in a tax haven." The penalties would also be simple. Fines of not more than £1 million and imprisonment of not more than 10 years would be imposed, and if the losses due to the fraud exceed £1 million and have not been repaid then the fines and



ROBERT BRUCE

prison terms can be tripled.

As Shaw concluded: "If the proposals in my bill had been law there would have been no Maxwell fraud, no BCCI fraud and many other frauds would have been prevented." That may be taking it too far. Fraudsters will always find a way if they are determined. But the Bank of England is known to favour removing the benefits of bank ownership from secretive havens. The Revenue is keen to follow transactions to their source.

Shaw's bill is speculative, like most introduced under the ten minute rule. It is a marker. But it had cross-party sponsors and surely contains the principles with which to rid the financial world of the safe havens of the fraudster.

If the accountancy firms were to recognise that the world has indeed been turned upside down, even they should be providing support for Shaw's campaign. And also, quietly and discreetly closing down a few overseas offices which have suddenly become surplus to requirements.

The author is the Associate Editor of Accountancy Age

Small firms live with the threat of acquisition

Networking to compete in Europe

By JOHN LESLIE

EARLIER this year, phones started to ring at the offices of Stoy Hayward, the London base of the Horwath International accounting group. The calls were from partners in Tonnervik Horwath, the group's Swedish member firm. As the picture cleared, Horwath found itself facing the overnight defection of 80 per cent of its Swedish offices, many in the more important commercial centres, to the rival Ernst & Young.

It was a typical skirmish in the intensely competitive battleground occupied by European accounting groups. Horwath, a leader among the "second tier" networks with 127 main offices in Europe and fee income of \$278 million in 1990, was still dwarfed by Ernst & Young.

Among the larger groups, the twin imperatives of growth and geographical expansion require regular feeding through mergers and acquisitions. For such major groups, increase in size — in fee income, staff numbers, office spread and market share — is a goal in itself. They believe that clients are attracted by the firm's very size. This is not unreasonable; a firm's size often correlates with its ability to offer a broad range of services in any of the countries in which a client company trades. And size generally, if not invariably, aids productivity and profitability so, in theory at least, the firm has more to reinvest.

The massive integrated accountancy groups are by no means the only players in the European accountancy market, however. The recently published *European Accountancy Yearbook* lists 47 pan-European or international networks of firms, many of which have a philosophy exactly opposed to that of the superleague practices.

The majority of the European networks represent the smaller accountancy firms, and share at least one common goal — to enable their

members to remain independent. Many started out, in the mid-1970s, as business clubs enabling member firms to refer clients to other members in different countries. In the face of increasing competition and the danger of being swallowed up, smaller firms have strengthened their networks and placed greater emphasis on information sharing, joint training, pooled resources and development.

They have moved into quality control "audits", in groups such as Midsmall International.

Rising competition, combined with the challenges offered by the European single market, led to a further surge in network formation in the late 1980s. One of the most recent is Channel International, with just eight members (principal offices in the European networks average 83; Coopers & Lybrand Europe has 350).

The smaller firms have always offered a closer relationship between clients and

partners. According to the *European Accountancy Yearbook* the average ratio of partners to total staff among the smaller networks is 1:7.5; among the "second-tier" firms it rises to 1:10; and in the big six it reaches 1:20.

The strategic issue which faces the smaller firms, however, is whether the pooling of information and resources will be good enough in an increasingly open European market place.

Despite harmonisation measures, national differences in accountancy practice and regulation remain massive.

The directive on mutual recognition of professional qualifications will allow accountants to work in other member states, but will do nothing to create a single market for accountancy. It may prove difficult for the networks of smaller firms to compete with the central control, co-ordination and consistency which the major firms can offer. If they do, they run the risk of

losing independence and individuality. Smaller networks may also find it hard to keep up with the expenditure needed to serve clients with overseas interests.

The signs are that life will continue to get tougher for the smaller firms and their networks as even smaller, and medium, companies move into European markets and the major firms continue their "raids" in search of market share (a 1990 analysis of the *Financial Times* Top 500 European companies showed 83 per cent were audited by big six firms compared with 98 per cent in a similar study of the US audit market).

Torsien Lyth, partner in Ernst & Young in Sweden, said of the Tonnervik firms' move from Horwath: "To serve big clients we must have a strong network internationally. The concentration of audit services to a few big firms in Sweden is a reflection of what will happen in the rest of Europe. It's a client-driven development."

□ *The European Accountancy Yearbook*, published by Graham & Trotman, 071-821 1123, price £125.

'For larger groups, the imperative of growth requires regular feeding'

Calling lawyers to account

SOLICITORS will soon have even more reason to keep their books in order judging from efforts by the Law Society to beef up its investigations team. The Solicitors Complaints Bureau, which is responsible among other things for investigating solicitors' books of account, has launched a recruitment drive for "mature and experienced" accountants to enlarge its team. In return for a salary of £25,000 and a car — or mileage allowance in the case of temporary recruits — prospective candidates are expected to give more than their best. The brief calls for at least part-qualified candidates with professional audit experi-



ANY OTHER BUSINESS

travel extensively throughout England and Wales. The last point is especially pertinent. The Complaints Bureau is planning to relocate from its present offices in Victoria, in west London, sometime in 1993... probably to the Midlands.

Bleak houses

THE top 20 accountancy firms shed more than 10 per cent of their staff last year — some 3,983 individual posts. The sharpest cuts were made by the Big Four. Price Waterhouse, Ernst & Young, KPMG Peat Marwick and Coopers & Lybrand, which cut more than 2,600 jobs between

them. Prospects for graduates remain bleak, according to Robert Half and Accountemps, the financial recruitment specialists. Recruitment advertising in accountancy fell 39 per cent in the first quarter of 1992 compared with the same period last year, and 72 per cent against 1990.

Stroll on

HATS off to the team from Arthur Andersen that joined thousands of energetic volunteers for the Cadbury's "Strollathon" through the streets of London last Sunday. Twenty eight accountants and consultants from the firm swapped their pinstripes for

sweatshirts and trainers for the event — and they hope to raise £500,000 for Save the Children through their efforts. The firm's motto, "Think straight, talk straight", was adapted to "Think straight, walk straight" for the event, although the course was not as smooth as some of the contestants would have liked. Their garb included the largest pair of Hush Puppies ever seen. Gary Glitter style sparkling platform boots and an ornate pair of Oriental shoes straight out of *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves*. Other companies taking part included General Accident, GEC and Cadbury Schweppes. A team from the Stock Exchange was thrown in for good measure.

JON ASHWORTH

Time to call in the matchmaker

When firms start to think about mergers, Douglas Llammbias can offer them a discreet service. Edward Fennell reports



Joint venturer: Douglas Llammbias looks for partners

WHEN the leading partners at Arthur Andersen and Price Waterhouse went into a huddle over a possible merger a couple of years ago, the business world held its breath. The decision not to merge was received as a puzzling anticlimax. Surely, said the commentators, there must be a better way to handle such a deal?

In the past two months, Baker Tilly and Milne Ross, and Stoy Hayward and Finnie & Co, have shown that there is. As it happens, both mergers were negotiated by Douglas Llammbias's Business Exchange. Apart from being coups for Mr Llammbias, the two mergers show the advantage of having an independent third party — a marriage broker — to undertake preliminary research and discussion.

The public image of firms, including large ones, is often misleading," Mr Llammbias says. "The kind of rumours and impressions which get around the accountancy world based on gossip are usually partial or inaccurate. It needs someone to come in objectively, get the facts, and evalu-

ate the truth about firms before any merger negotiations start."

Anonymity and confidentiality are critical in the early stages of negotiations. When Mr Llammbias is commissioned to search for possible merger partners, he will spend up to three months gathering information and meeting partners, to establish a shortlist. He will not, at this stage, reveal whom he is acting for, nor will he feed back to his client information about the firms to which he has been talking.

"I will start by drawing up a long list of firms who may be appropriate," he says. "I will be looking for information on the structure of the partnership, its ownership, profitability, strengths, weaknesses and sense of direction. In connection with one of the recent mergers, for example, I approached, in confidence, 16 firms for strictly private discussions in order to establish whether or not they were interested and suitable."

The chances are that in such circumstances only half the firms at most would be serious candidates for a merger. At

that stage the firms would be invited to shortlisting meetings to discuss why it might be in their interests to merge.

"What you have to offer is a vision of the future. The merged firm is going to be something different from the existing partnerships and you have to be able to offer something which is attractive in that way," Mr Llammbias says.

The credibility strengths of the merged firm provide the key to a successful negotiation. Unless the partners can focus on that, they may get bogged down in negotiating points based on the status quo. In particular, there are dangers that which ever is the larger firm will patronise its smaller potential partner. To establish negotiations on an equal footing both sides must feel that they have something to gain from the new arrangement.

Mr Llammbias says: "Once the firms have been told the identity of the other firm and expressed an interest, you must set up a positive and open debate between them. It is particularly important that who will take on the key roles and who will be the key partners should be established during the negotiations. It is no good addressing that after

the decision to merge. It has to be done at an early stage."

There are two guidelines for a successful outcome. First, mergers must be based on positive factors. Firms must build on their strengths, not their weaknesses. In some cases Mr Llammbias will advise firms to reorganise themselves first before looking for a merger partner. Second, there must be a timetable for the negotiation process and that timetable must be adhered to. Otherwise the process will lose momentum and drag on in consequence with all the damaging results that this can entail.

Despite his own success as a deal maker, Mr Llammbias is himself in two minds about the benefits of larger firms — certainly as far as the public is concerned. His own view is that the profession has had merger mania fostered on by the banks and other external forces. Size implies credibility in the eyes of the banks but it does not necessarily guarantee better service or indeed better careers for partners.

"But I think the commitment to size is here to stay," he says. "I foresee more mergers ahead. The more recent ones are just part of a continuing trend."

Britain pass the first test against Chile

TENNIS

FROM BARRY WOOD IN FRANKFURT

GREAT Britain safely overcame the initial hurdle in their attempt to avoid having to qualify for next year's Federation Cup when they defeated Chile in the first play-off round yesterday. They now need to beat either China or Finland.

Jo Durie's match against Paula Cabezas provided a good look at the skills normally hidden away in a remote corner of the tennis world. Although Durie won 6-7, 6-0, 6-1, it was far from easy, even in the final set. Her 19-year-old opponent showed considerable tactical skill, and Durie was relieved to have claimed victory.

Surprisingly, Cabezas showed more inclination than Durie to serve and volley. Durie was usually far more cautious and hard pushed to get the better of a lively

opponent. Durie took the first break, to lead 3-1, but lost it at 5-3.

A set point at 5-4 was then wasted when Durie sent a return from a weak second serve into the net, and another at 6-5 was lost to a netted backhand. Cabezas then took the tie-break.

The second set, however, belonged entirely to Durie, who discovered how effective her drop shots could be. She conceded only six points, as Cabezas lapsed into errors.

Durie then broke to lead 1-0 in the third, but perhaps the most significant point of the match came in the next game. The Chilean held a break point, which Durie did well to save by stretching wide to return, forcing an error.

That effectively ended Cabezas's hopes of a come-

back, but Durie struggled to complete the match, often bending her knees and stretching to ease aching muscles in the final stages.

Sara Gomer had earlier overwhelmed Barbara Castro, aged 16, 6-2, 6-0 after dropping the first two games. Spain were placed under pressure when Conchita Martinez was defeated 7-6, 6-2 by the Canadian, Helen Kelesi. But they reached the third round when Arantxa Sanchez Vicario beat Patricia Thy 6-4, 6-2 and Sanchez and Martinez took the deciding doubles against Jill Hetherington and Thy 6-4, 6-0.

Germany, relegated to an overcrowded court one while Czechoslovakia and Korea played on a half-empty court, defeated Holland. Anke Huber dropped a set to Nicole Jagermans but Steffi Graf saw off Brenda Schultz 6-3, 7-6.

Canterbury..... 6
Great Britain..... 17

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN CANTERBURY

GREAT Britain defied the worst the New Zealand winter weather could throw at them yesterday to defeat Canterbury with something to spare. The victory enabled the midweek side to maintain its unbeaten record.

The game almost did not take place as the touring party was delayed for five hours at a fog-bound Auckland airport. The kick-off was delayed for an hour but even so the players had to go straight from the airport to the ground.

Great Britain also arrived one man short for the substitute, Kelvin Skerrett, was left behind in Auckland because the much-delayed flight was overbooked and there was no seat for him.

When the players arrived at the ground it was to find teaming rain and a mud heap of a pitch. But these were made to seem no more than minor irritants by the British players, who handled the slippery ball as if it was bone dry.

Canterbury repeatedly

kicked for field position early in the tackle count but Great Britain failed to oblige with the hoped for handling errors and the extra tackling they had to do eventually sapped Canterbury's resistance.

Paul Newlove scored Great Britain's first try after Steve Macnamara's kick had ricocheted conveniently from a Canterbury defender. Although Maes David, a powerful centre, got Canterbury within two points at half-time with a fine try, two well-worked scores midway through the second half saw Great Britain home comfortably. Deryck Fox created the

first with a long pass to Steve Hampton that enabled him to send Kevin Ellis in for the try.

Ellis himself then combined with Newlove to send Alan Hunte storming through two tackles to the corner. Joe Lydon's nonchalant dropped goal four minutes from time completed the scoring.

The impressive form of many of the international contenders in the side has provided the coach, Malcolm Kelly, with the happy problem of having too many players chasing too few international places.

He has some hard thinking to do before naming his team for the final game of the tour, the second international against New Zealand in Auckland on Sunday.

SCORERS: Canterbury: Try: M David, Goal: Kelly. Great Britain: Try: Newlove, Ellis, Hunte. Goals: Fox (2). Drop goal: Lydon.

CANTERBURY: A Anderson, M Downes, M David, A Vincent, W Tawata, M Mison, P Bergman, M Rangata, M Tully, P Sarinani, C Neamen, T Hemmerson, L Sulu.

GREAT BRITAIN: S Hampton, A Hunte, J Devereux, J Lydon, P Newlove, D Lyons (capt), G Halliday, K Ellis, D Fox, D Sampson, P Hume, L Crooks (sub), M Nelson, K Farber, M Jackson, S Macnamara.

Widnes have made an offer to Featherstone Rovers for Fox, saying they are prepared for a cash deal or a player exchange.



Hampton: scoring pass

Stricter standards for martial arts

BY JOHN GOODBODY

LOCAL authorities are likely to refuse to hire facilities to unrecognised martial arts organisations following a restructuring announced by the Sports Council yesterday.

The council, the government-financed quango, has withdrawn recognition from the Martial Arts Commission, which it stopped grant-aiding two years ago, and set up its own advisory group to supervise the estimated 200,000 practitioners of the martial arts.

Bob Perkins, an official of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which is on the advisory group, said yesterday that it was "very probable" that its members would refuse to rent facilities "unless there were very sound local reasons to do otherwise". This has occurred in Wales, where a reorganisation has already taken place.

Martial arts, which for years have been riddled with feuding between different styles and governing bodies, has now been restructured into seven organisations responsible for karate, where there are an estimated 100,000 active participants, aikido, the Chinese martial arts, kendo, taekwondo, tang soo do and

ju-jitsu. All will now be eligible for grants from the Sports Council provided the council is satisfied with the criteria for items like insurance and coaching standards.

The chaos in taekwondo, the Korean form of fighting using both hands and feet, is typical of the oriental martial arts.

The British taekwondo council has 10 different organisations as members plus several others who have applied. However, they do not include the group whose team is going to Barcelona to take part in the demonstration sport at the Games.

Derek Casey, the director of national services for the Sports Council, yesterday said that after the Games, the Sports Council would meet with the British Olympic Association.

However, since the International Olympic Committee has recognised the World Taekwondo Federation and most of the Britons practising this martial art are linked with a rival world governing body, there is a limit to what can be achieved.

The only result is that the British team for the Games is not truly representative of this country.

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Severiano Ballesteros's hole-by-hole guide to Muirfield

SEVERIANO Ballesteros does not regard Muirfield, where the Open Championship starts today, as his favourite golf course but he does have the utmost respect for it as an honest examination. "It is a great golf course," he says. "One of the best tests. But I do think the sides of the bunkers are too steep."

"I know you must expect to be penalised if you stray into a bunker. Yet I still think you should be able to get at the flag from out of them. There are times at Muirfield when you have no option but to play away from the flag. I know, I've done that."

Bernard Darwin, a former golf correspondent of *The Times*, once ventured into one of these sandy caverns. He is alleged to have shouted to the heavens: "And don't send your son down. Getting out of here is a man's job."

Arnold Palmer found out in 1987 why Darwin vented such fury. Palmer, then 57 years old, was playing well, but he found a bunker grave to the right of the 14th. A thrush, or two or five later and he had a ten on his card. "I wouldn't say that God couldn't have got it out but He'd have had to have thrown it," Palmer said.

Tom Watson pointed to the severity of the bunkers at Muirfield in 1980 when he won the third of his five Open titles. "I was in only one bunker that year which probably won me the championship," Watson said. "The bunkers are like little water hazards. If you go in one, then it is a shot dropped. If you go in five or six, then you cannot expect to win."

In fact, Gary Player triumphed in 1959 when he got up and down 11 times out of 12 from the sand. And Nick Faldo was successful in 1987 despite being in three of the bunkers in the last round. But he admitted he was fortunate to get good lies.

Jack Nicklaus confirmed his admiration for Muirfield by naming his own course in Dublin, Ohio, Muirfield Village, and his opinion of the bunkers was that it was as if a master mason had been employed to create them. "They are the most fastidiously-built bunkers I have ever seen," Nicklaus said.

Ballesteros, however, cannot camouflage his delight at being back at the Open this week. "I think all the courses which the Royal and Ancient select for the Open are great," he said. "The wind is always a factor, but if it blows at a good wind, but not a wild one. If it blows harder than 20 mph, then it can get out of control. I think if the wind speed is 15mph, then that is fantastic."

"This time at Muirfield it should be better. In 1987 the Royal and Ancient was wrong to try to do what the United States Golf Association does at the US Open. The rough was unfair. It is not meant to be long and thick so close to the greens at the Open. The tradition is that the wind protects the course and, if it blows, then you have to play low shots, punch shots and running shots. And if the wind doesn't blow and the scores are low, then what is wrong with that?"

Ballesteros won his Opens at Royal Lytham and St Annes in 1979 and 1988 and at St Andrews in 1984. His intention is to win a fourth title at



Muirfield, and here is how he intends to go about it.

Hole 1 (447 yards, par 4)

A very good first hole. The hardest thing is to put the ball on the fairway—the tee shot is very tight, very intimidating, especially when there is a cross-wind, and the bunker on the left and the rough on the right narrow the landing area. I will probably take a one-iron every day off the tee. The second shot, with probably a four or a five, is not meant to be so difficult. The green is flat, quite well protected, with a deep bunker to the left. I will be happy with a four each day.

A good chance to make an early birdie. I will probably hit a one-iron again from the tee, although you must take the bunkers left and right out of play, and then it can be only a pitching wedge. The green slopes a little from right to left towards the boundary wall. With a pitching wedge, you should miss the five bunkers to the right. If the pin is at the back, then it makes it harder with a little bank just beyond the green.

Hole 3 (379 yards, par 4)

It is a one-iron again from the tee unless the wind is against, when it becomes a driver. I want to be short of the two deep bunkers at the end of the fairway and a little to the left because you get a better view of the green from there. Then it should be something like a seven or an eight. It is another hole if there is no wind, where you can think of making a birdie. If the wind blows then it is difficult; if it doesn't then it should be comfortable. Not easy, because it is never easy, but comfortable. The green is flat but quite big so if you are a

long way from the hole then two putts is good.

Hole 4 (180 yards, par 3)

It is a tough hole—I think the toughest par three at Muirfield. You can have a four-iron on an elevated tee and you know you must hit the green. There will probably be a crosswind from left to right. It is not good to miss on either side of the green—very difficult to get up and down. The long green slopes back to front, so you see it well from the tee, but you can also see the bunkers! To make par here is good. I will be pleased not to drop a shot through the week.

It can be a very difficult hole, demanding three good shots if the wind is against. I don't think it is a recovery hole. Without a wind, you can get up and down with a sand wedge from close range to make a four, but any time the wind blows then it is very tough. It is always a driver off the tee and it is possible to go for the green in two, it is better to play short. I always like to leave myself a full sand wedge—for me about 90 yards—for the third shot. There are many bunkers—let me see, six, seven, ten, 12, 15—maybe 18. Is that enough?

Hole 5 (559 yards, par 5)

A good dog-leg to the left. The tee shot is difficult. I think without wind the line is probably over the right one of four bunkers which sit in the dog-leg, but only without wind. It is, perhaps, better to play safe here, which is a touch to the right, although the rough is there to narrow the landing area again. If you hit a good tee shot then the next one should be with a five or a six, more if the wind is against or a lot less if it is behind you. The

Hole 6 (469 yards, par 4)

A good dog-leg to the left. The tee shot is difficult. I think without wind the line is probably over the right one of four bunkers which sit in the dog-leg, but only without wind. It is, perhaps, better to play safe here, which is a touch to the right, although the rough is there to narrow the landing area again. If you hit a good tee shot then the next one should be with a five or a six, more if the wind is against or a lot less if it is behind you. The

Hole 7 (185 yards, par 3)

This usually takes something like a four- or a five-iron because it is a little uphill and again the wind is a big factor. It plays longer than it looks. The green is well protected with bunkers. The wind often blows from right to left so you will see many balls go in the three bunkers to the left. It is a good hole, some say the most difficult par three at Muirfield although for me the 4th is harder. The green is tilted so it

Hole 8 (444 yards, par 4)

Here is a hole where you must hit an iron from the tee—a one-iron for me, always, whatever the weather, because the fairway is very tight and very well protected by a lot of bunkers to the right. I use a one-iron rather than a three-wood because my three-wood goes much the same distance but it is much more difficult to hit it straight. Even after a good shot from the high tee, I would think it is still a four-

small flat green is slightly raised but I find it easier to read than some others.

Hole 9 (504 yards, par 5)

This is a birdie chance. If you hit two good shots, you should be on the green without too much trouble. The second shot is more demanding than the tee shot. You can use a driver off the tee, even if it does look narrow, because it takes some of the pressure off the next shot which, unless the wind is against, will be with an



looks at you, and the toughest pin position is at the back.

Hole 10 (475 yards, par 4)

Or you can take a one-iron or three-wood from the tee and play safe between the two fairway bunkers. Then the second shot is much harder with the out-of-bounds stone wall to the left. It is a hole which tests your course management.

Hole 11 (385 yards, par 4)

I will take the one-iron almost for certain again because it is a blind tee shot over the sand dunes and I like to be a little to the left. The next shot is usually with an eight or a nine to a very small, very well-protected green. There is a hollow on the right side, so it is very important to get the right distance, but you have to think hard because there are a lot of bunkers over the back. It is a ridge running through it, and when the pin is at the back then it is a very difficult approach. But the greens at Muirfield are always very good with a consistent pace.

Hole 12 (381 yards, par 4)

The hole runs downhill so the fairway bunkers are easily in play. It will be an iron from the tee for me. The green is so long, at least three clubs difference from front to back, so it is difficult to say what club I will be going in with, but it is important to be right. You will see a lot of people putting from 50ft or more. But it should be a birdie chance because with no wind and a short iron to the green then the bunkers should not be a worry.

Hole 13 (159 yards, par 3)

This is a very slim green to hit and the bunkers around it are very deep. It might be only a seven or an eight depending on the wind, but it is still a relief to hit the green. This is where I remember once being

Hole 14 (449 yards, par 4)

It is a good par four—and a long one, too. One of the toughest on the course to beat. I aim to hit my tee shot level with the second of the three bunkers on the left. But the wind usually blows from the right so that must be taken into account. I will probably need something from a four to a six to find the green, which is again well protected by bunkers. But it is possible to run the ball into the green.

Hole 15 (417 yards, par 4)

Another great hole—you only remember how many there are as you go through them one by one. I think it must be the driver, unless the wind is behind as it was in 1987, and the place to be is between the set of three bunkers and the two cross bunkers further ahead—and, of course, on the fairway. If you go in the sand then you will drop a shot almost for certain. Then I think it will probably take a six-iron to hit the green, surrounded by bunkers. The two on the left have more visitors than the others.

Hole 16 (188 yards, par 3)

If the wind blows against, it could be a wood. At best it will take a five-iron and if the wind comes from the left, as it often does, then it will be a three or a four. The wind also dries this green out so it becomes even harder to get the ball to stay on the putting surface. You must hit a good shot—or you are in

'The fourth is tough—I think the toughest par three at Muirfield. You know you must hit the green'

iron. Or you can take a one-iron or three-wood from the tee and play safe between the two fairway bunkers. Then the second shot is much harder with the out-of-bounds stone wall to the left. It is a hole which tests your course management.

This is a very tough par four—long, very long. You need a good tee shot and a great second shot. The tee shot is made harder if the wind is blowing because you hit from a high tee so it is difficult to

Hole 17 (550 yards, par 5)

Against the wind, it has to be one of the toughest par fives I have ever played. You can play an iron from the tee or a driver but the bunkers on the left are all in play and there is out of bounds on the right. It is difficult to hit the second shot over the four fairway bunkers some 100 yards from the green—sometimes you must play short. If you do then the third becomes a blind shot. If it is against the wind then you could be going in with a four or a five for your third shot. If there is no wind, then maybe you can get home with a driver and three-wood—maybe.

Hole 18 (448 yards, par 4)

This offers a great second shot—very demanding. It is a demanding tee shot, too, because of the bunkers, two to the left and one to the right, and because the wind is usually left to right. A good tee shot will leave you with probably a five-iron to a narrow green into which the bunkers seem to eat more and more. It could be a driver off the tee—it depends what you are looking for. If I am standing there one shot ahead then I will probably take a one- or a three-iron—and put the emphasis on the second shot. If I need a birdie then I will have to hit the driver. It's like every hole—it depends on how you feel, how you are hitting the ball and what you need. I hope I have ten for the Open.

Hole 19 (448 yards, par 4)

It is a good par four—and a long one, too. One of the toughest on the course to beat. I aim to hit my tee shot level with the second of the three bunkers on the left. But the wind usually blows from the right so that must be taken into account. I will probably need something from a four to a six to find the green, which is again well protected by bunkers. But it is possible to run the ball into the green.

Hole 20 (417 yards, par 4)

Another great hole—you only remember how many there are as you go through them one by one. I think it must be the driver, unless the wind is behind as it was in 1987, and the place to be is between the set of three bunkers and the two cross bunkers further ahead—and, of course, on the fairway. If you go in the sand then you will drop a shot almost for certain. Then I think it will probably take a six-iron to hit the green, surrounded by bunkers. The two on the left have more visitors than the others.

Hole 21 (188 yards, par 3)

If the wind blows against, it could be a wood. At best it will take a five-iron and if the wind comes from the left, as it often does, then it will be a three or a four. The wind also dries this green out so it becomes even harder to get the ball to stay on the putting surface. You must hit a good shot—or you are in

MICHAEL FLAHERTY'S TWELVE PLAYERS TO FOLLOW

PAUL AZINGER. Born: Holyoke, Massachusetts. Age: 32. Tour titles: 9. Majors: None. Muirfield is the place where Azinger stole defeat from the jaws of victory. His 6-5 finish gave the 1987 Open to Faldo and himself a five-year migraine. His return to Muirfield will be assisted by white-hot putting touch. His mind was not on the game earlier this year because of business distractions (he has changed agents) but recent form suggests he is clear-headed again.

IAN BAKER-FINCH. Born: Nambour, Australia. Age: 31. Tour titles: 13. Majors: 1 (Open, 1991). His old, silky putting touch is in need of restoration if he is to retain the title. His form at the US Open (13th) was encouraging but the last year has taken its toll: he has lost the chance to chase the dollar, but his time has not been his own as he believes in giving back to the game. There's no need for Mr Nice Guy to get nasty, but only one victory since he won last year's Open does cast doubt.

SEVERIANO BALLESTEROS. Born: Pedernera, Spain. Age: 35. Tour titles: 63. Majors: 5 (Open, 1979, 1984, 1988; Masters, 1980, 1983). Golf's matinee idol wants to be centre-stage again. One major in eight years suggests his star is fading but no one would dare cast him aside. He dominated Europe last year, finishing as the No. 1, but his putter has misbehaved in recent weeks. Nothing galvanises his game more than the Open, and he expects to be inspired by the spectators. It is time for him to play the leading role again.

NICK FALDO. Born: Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. Age: 34 (35 on



Azinger: score to settle



Faldo: finely tuned game



Montgomerie: pressured



Watson: pursuing record



Woosnam: positive mood

BILLY RAY BROWN. Born: Houston, Texas. Age: 29. Tour titles: 2. Majors: None. A classic Texas player. Knows how to control the ball in the wind. For a big man (6ft 3in), he is not a prodigious hitter, but his accuracy will help him steer clear of the Muirfield bunkers. A streaky putter with little to shout low scores on Sunday. He came within an inch of making a play-off for the 1990 US Open.

FRED COUPLES. Born: Seattle, Washington. Age: 32. Tour titles: 8. Majors: 1 (Masters, 1982). He turned on the whole of America by winning the Masters, but he could turn the light off on his own career. This Open will examine his character. A chink appeared at the US Open, where he appeared reluctant to play the lead role; it seems he prefers sitting in front of the television for hours on end. Nicklaus regards him as "one of the greatest talents I've ever seen".

NICK FALDO. Born: Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. Age: 34 (35 on

COLIN MONTGOMERIE. Born: Glasgow. Age: 29. Tour titles: 2. Majors: None. Has all the credentials, but does he have the constitution? He hits the ball low, so he is less inconvenienced than most by the wind, and he is possibly a better putter now than Faldo. His Achilles' heel could be his pressure: he is striving to become the first Scottish-born golfer to win the Open on Scottish soil since Tommy Armour won at Carnoustie in 1931. He shadow-boxed with glory at the US Open last month and it might not have been a bad thing that he was beaten by Kie. He might need another Tour win or two before he wins an Open.

GREG NORMAN. Born: Mount Isa, Queensland. Age: 36. Tour titles: 66. Majors: 1 (Open, 1986). He is a wonderful gladiator of the fairways with boundless charisma, but has the Great White Shark got his bite back? He claims his appetite has

"If you feel old and washed up, I guess you are."

PAYNE STEWART. Born: Springfield, Missouri. Age: 32. Tour titles: 31. Majors: 2 (US PGA, 1989; US Open, 1991). He was the knickerbocker glory of American golf last year, when he won the US Open in the colours of the National Football League. But he has not dazzled on the fairways this season. He admits he put pressure on himself by trying to live up to being US Open champion. He has come to terms with that and he enjoys links golf.

TOM WATSON. Born: Kansas City, Missouri. Age: 42. Tour titles: 31. Majors: 8 (Open, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1982, 1983; Masters, 1977, 1981; US Open,

1982). There have been many obituaries since his last Open win in 1983, but Watson believes there is still plenty of life in him. His chances will depend on his putter. His claim that he has eliminated the twitch will be tested to the full. He hangs in equal Harry Vardon's record of six Open wins will ignite his challenge.

IAN WOOSNAM. Born: Oswestry, Shropshire. Age: 34. Tour titles: 31. Majors: 1 (Masters, 1991). He still likes to consider himself as one of the lads from Oswestry. Handling the pressures of fame has occasionally interrupted his progress. He considers self-belief more important than commitment or technique. Eliminating the hook from his game put him on the straight and narrow towards success. Paradoxically, he is always happiest when he is hitting the ball with a slight draw. He is thinking positively again after months when his indecision was final. He craving to win the Open is his likeliest enemy.

HOW TO GET THERE: From north and east of England: Normal route via the A1, then the A198 via North Berwick to Muirfield, or route via A98 then signed route via the B6388 to Haddington, continuing on the A6137, B1377 and B1345 joining the A198 at Dirlton Bypass. From west of England: Normal route via the A74 via Biggar to the Edinburgh City Bypass (A720) eastwards on to the A1, then as directed by Open Golf signposting. From west and central Scotland: Normal routes via the A8 and A9 to join the Edinburgh City bypass (1720) then as above. From north and east Scotland: Normal route via the M90 and A90 Queensferry Road, then take the signposted route via the A902, Telford Road and Ferry Road, A199 Commercial Street and Seaford Road, on to the Portobello bypass joining the A1, then as above.

ADMISSION CHARGES: Sea-side tickets: Available for practice days and the four Championship days, price £22. Each Championship day: £18. Senior citizens and juveniles under 18, half-price all days. Car parking: £5 (all days).

RECENT WINNERS: 1982 (Troon): T. Watson (US); 1983 (Birkdale): T. Watson (US); 1984 (St Andrews): S. Ballesteros (Sp); 1985 (Sandwich): A. Lyle (GB); 1986 (Turnberry): G. Norman (Aus); 1987 (Muirfield): N. Faldo (GB); 1988 (Royal Lytham and St Annes): S. Ballesteros (Sp); 1989 (Troon): M. Caldeveocchia (US); 1990 (St Andrews): N. Faldo (GB); 1991 (Birkdale): I. Baker-Finch (Aus).

MUIRFIELD WINNERS: 1982-H

Hilton (GB; amateur), 1983: H. Vardon (GB), 1901: J. Braid (GB), 1912: E. Ray (GB), 1925: W.

Hagen (US), 1935: A. Perry (GB), 1948: H. Cotton (GB), 1952: G. Player (SA), 1958: J. Nicklaus (US), 1972: L. Trevino (US), 1980: T. Watson (US); 1987: N. Faldo (GB).

FUTURE CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1993: Royal St George's Golf Club, Sandwich (July 15 to 18); 1994: The Ales Course, Turnberry (July 14 to 17); 1995: The Old Course, St Andrews (July 20 to 23); 1996: Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club (July 18 to 21).

PRIZE-MONEY: Total: at least £350,000. Winner: £95,000. Second: £75,000. Third: £50,000. Fourth: £35,000. Fifth: £25,000. Sixth: £20,000. Seventh: £15,000. Eighth: £10,000. Ninth: £8,000. Tenth: £6,000. 11th: £5,000. 12th: £4,000. 13th: £3,000. 14th: £2,500. 15th: £2,000. 16th: £1,500. 17th: £1,000. 18th: £800. 19th: £600. 20th: £400. 21st: £200. 22nd: £100. 23rd: £50. 24th: £25. 25th: £10. 26th: £5. 27th: £2. 28th: £1. 29th: £0.50. 30th: £0.25. 31st: £0.10. 32nd: £0.05. 33rd: £0.02. 34th: £0.01. 35th: £0.005. 36th: £0.002. 37th: £0.001. 38th: £0.0005. 39th: £0.0002. 40th: £0.0001. 41st: £0.00005. 42nd: £0.00002. 43rd: £0.00001. 44th: £0.000005. 45th: £0.000002. 46th: £0.000001. 47th: £0.0000005. 48th: £0.0000002. 49th: £0.0000001. 50th: £0.00000005. 51st: £0.00000002. 52nd: £0.00000001. 53rd: £0.000000005. 54th: £0.000000002. 55th: £0.000000001. 56th: £0.0000000005. 57th: £0.0000000002. 58th: £0.0000000001. 59th: £0.00000000005. 60th: £0.00000000002. 61st: £0.00000000001. 62nd: £0.000000000005. 63rd: £0.000000000002. 64th: £0.000000000001. 65th: £0.0000000000005. 66th: £0.0000000000002. 67th: £0.0000000000001. 68th: £0.00000000000005. 69th: £0.00000000000002. 70th: £0.00000000000001. 71st: £0.000000000000005. 72nd: £0.000000000000002. 73rd: £0.000000000000001. 74th: £0.0000000000000005. 75th: £0.0000000000000002. 76th: £0.0000000000000001. 77th: £0.00000000000000005. 78th: £0.00000000000000002. 79th: £0.00000000000000001. 80th: £0.000000000000000005. 81st: £0.000000000000000002. 82nd: £0.000000000000000001. 83rd: £0.0000000000000000005. 84th: £0.0000000000000000002. 85th: £0.0000000000000000001. 86th: £0.00000000000000000005. 87th: £0.00000000000000000002. 88th: £0.00000000000000000001. 89th: £0.000000000000000000005. 90th: £0.000000000000000000002. 91st: £0.000000000000000000001. 92nd: £0.0000000000000000000005. 93rd: £0.0000000000000000000002. 94th: £0.0000000000000000000001. 95th: £0.00000000000000000000005. 96th: £0.00000000000000000000002. 97th: £0.00000000000000000000001. 98th: £0.000000000000000000000005. 99th: £0.000000000000000000000002. 100th: £0.000000000000000000000001.

LOWEST TATTON TOTALS: 1988: T. Watson (68, 70, 65, 65, Turnberry, 1977), 270; N. Faldo (67, 65, 67, 71; St Andrews, 1980), 271; T. Watson (69, 70, 64, 69, Muirfield, 1980), 272; Baker-Finch (71, 71, 65, 66, Royal Birkdale, 1991).

LOWEST FIRST ROUNDERS: C. Stacker (Royal Birkdale, 1989), 63; C. O'Connor (J. Taylors, St George's, 1983), 63; S. Ballesteros (Muirfield, 1987), 63; G. Norman (Turnberry, 1989), 63.

LOWEST THIRD ROUNDERS:

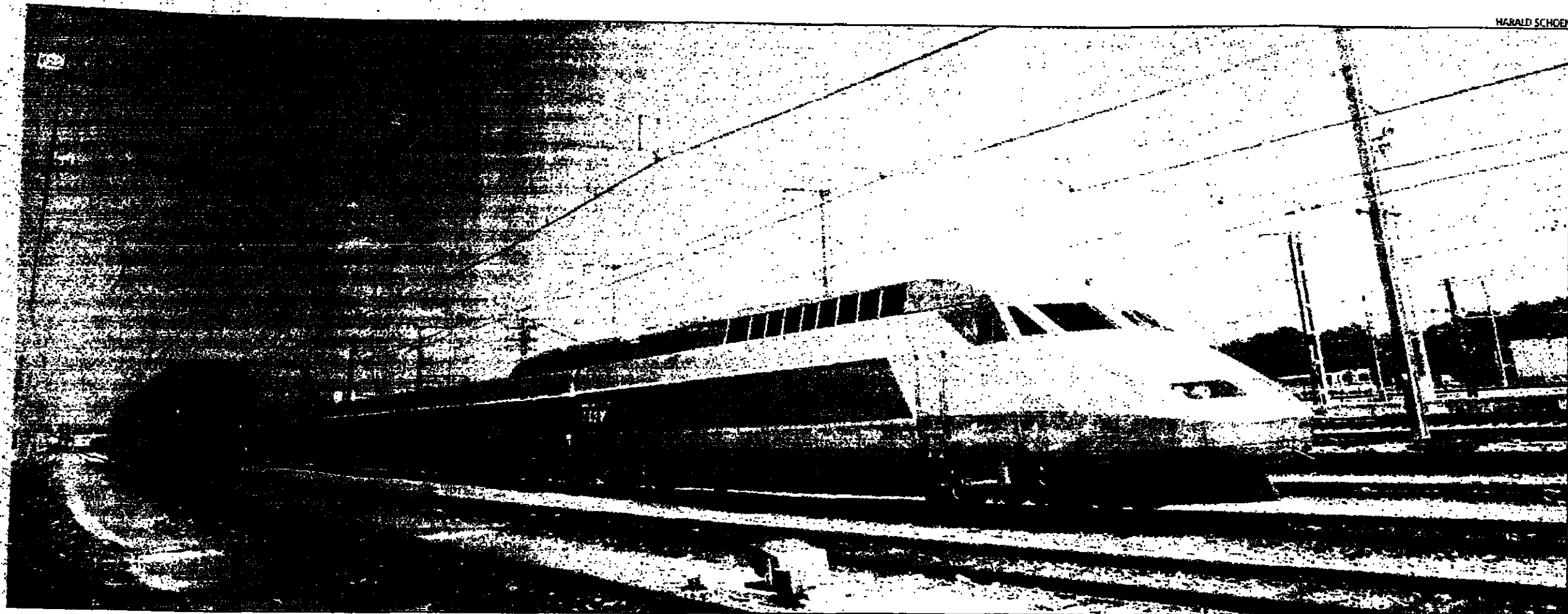
A. Old (Muirfield, 1980), 63; Broadhurst (St Andrews, 1988), 63; J. Mudd (Royal Birkdale, 1981), 63.

LOWEST FOURTH ROUNDERS:

63; J. Mudd (Royal Birkdale, 1981), 63.



Ticket to ride the rails of France



HAROLD SCHÖEN



MY FEET were swollen, my teeth had grown fur and bits of my rucksack were trailing in the puddles. I had been away for only 100 hours but it was to be a four-night stand.

When I arrived at Victoria station in London on a Thursday night for the 20.40 at train to heaven, the course appeared deserted apart from a few commuters. Then, rounding a corner, I bumped into them — the brightly coloured Inter-Railers, with their Day-Glo sacks strapped like raincoats on to their backs. Most were between 16 and 20 years old. Some had been dropped off by their parents only minutes before, others had been on the European Monopoly board for a couple of weeks and were pros. There were Belgians, Germans, French and Italians. They had all spent £180 for a month's unlimited train travel around Europe trying to see as many places as they could before going back to school, university or a new job. Every year 250,000 people, mostly young, become Inter-Railers.

For some at Victoria it was the first time they had travelled abroad on their own. Parents who would have worried if their offspring were not back from a party at midnight seemed quite willing to let them arrive late at night in sleazy train stations, stay in back street hotels and sleep on beaches.

Inter-railers are the ambulatory equivalent of McDonald's, testimony to the erosion of French culture

By the time we had passed a library of grey places — Balham, Streatham and Croydon — we had all but forgotten we were in England. Our life was already resounding to the clack of the train as we studied our Thomas Cook timetables, got out our pots of peanut butter, Marmite or confiture and struck up our first ephemeral relationships.

Everything is reduced to the essentials for Inter-Railers. They do not tell you what to see. They tell you where to eat and sleep and whether you can leave your luggage in the station. On tight budgets and determined to get the most out of their tickets, they become bonded by the stupor of fatigue. The scare stories had started by Kent. "Didn't they tell you that somebody has been chloroforming whole compartments on French trains and stealing everybody's valuables?" said Dieter, from Germany, rolling his eyes at an innocent-looking blonde English rose. Tipped out of the train at Newhaven, we were left to stand around for two hours like cows under a tree before a storm. Conversations became more intimate. By the time we got on the ferry to Dieppe, the groups of girls and boys had merged.

Arriving in Paris after a sleepless night on the boat train and confronted by the chic commuters at the Gare St Lazare, I began to understand the French distaste for this annual invasion.

They expect their 20 million visitors to blend in, spend a little money and show respect for their cuisine, their culture and their style. Instead, the Inter-Railers trample over French self-esteem and landscape with little regard for etiquette and little intention to spend. They are the ambulatory equivalent of

Alice Thomson picks up her Inter-Rail pass to join the young and restless on the fast track through Europe

McDonald's — walking testimony to the erosion of French culture with their unwaxed legs, bottles of Coke, shorts and trainers.

Unable to bear the glare, I swung my backpack into the Forum des Halles, France's largest shopping mall. I knew I had to buy a dress, necessary camouflage in a country where couture is king. Scooping one up for a bargain £8, a sizeable chunk of my £10-a-day budget, I finished Paris — the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the Pompidou Centre — and was ready to migrate south in the afternoon.

To get to the south you can take the TGV, the train à grande vitesse. Faster than the Express, faster even than the Rapide and more icon than locomotive, it is a legend in its own timetable.

"Not possible," said the woman behind the glass in the Gare de Lyon. "You need a reservation and a seat number and you must pay a supplement. It is better for you to go on the slow train tonight." The TGV sat there sleek and gleaming. It was too tempting. I slipped into a corridor and waited. By the time the doors hissed shut I was sweating but at least they could not throw me out until Lyons, the first stop and another two hours away.

Brad wandered along the corridor. He had also managed to creep on to the TGV but had been forced by the guard to pay a supplement. Brad was an American fashion student who had gone into the air force "to broaden his horizons" and was now cruising through Europe with his apple-pie smile on less than \$20 a day.

Avoiding eye contact with assorted guards, I spent the afternoon watching some of the less exciting parts of France pass by under darkening clouds as we travelled down the Rhône valley to Nice.

Napoleon may have started his Italian campaign from Nice and the Russian royal family may have graced its salons but today Nice is rough, dirty and far from welcoming.

I got on the train to Cannes 35 minutes down the coast where the sun was shining. It was eight o'clock in the evening and cocktail hour so I donned the dress, left my rucksack in a locker at the station and, stepping over some Inter-Railers who were bedding down on the concrete station floor, headed for the palm-lined seashore of boulevard de la Croisette. The Carlton-InterContinental hotel is lush, plush and very non-backpacker. It has wonderful soap in the

lobby, clean towels and mini toothbrush kits. Sitting on the terrace, I spent £2, the rest of the day's budget, on a cocktail and was relieved to see that it came with numerous bowls of nuts, olives and little pastries.

Cannes, home to European conferences for clairvoyants and hairdressers as well as to the film festival, knows how to keep her richer tourists amused but with no cheap rooms left in town it was going to be a long night of clubbing.

I woke on the beach mid-morning surrounded by brown bodies, my left side nicely burning in the sun. Most Inter-Railers sleep on the beach once, few repeat the often numbing experience. But at least I had waited until the sun came up before bedding down and after a swim in the sea — not fit to wash clothes in — and a restorative FFr50 three-course lunch at one of the less glamorous establishments in Cannes, I boarded the train for a day trip down the coast.

The train along the Côte d'Azur bumbled through Cannes, Juan-les-Pins and Antibes, picking up children not old enough to ride

mopeds and old people who have had their licences removed. I whiled the afternoon away jumping off at bougainvillea-shrouded stations for an ice cream, a swim or a drink. Back in Cannes, restless but exhausted, I took the night train to the Pyrenees. When the guard offered me a couchette for £5, I was pathetically grateful. An old man on the bunk below was kissing his wife goodnight. He explained that he was going to Lourdes to try to help her arthritis.

Beaming, he began to chant a catechism of miracles performed there. "Come to Lourdes, come to Lourdes," he said as the rhythm of the train began to lull me to sleep.

Crouching at the foothills of the Pyrenees, Lourdes makes Euro Disney look like a trip to the Science Museum. Since 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous saw an apparition of the Virgin Mary in a

grotto while collecting firewood in 1858, Lourdes has blossomed into a spiritual extravaganza. The streets to La Grotte were jammed with souvenir stands selling Bernadette mirrors, pencil cases and cushions.

People go around smiling. They smiled as they queued for three hours to see Bernadette's house, as they told shopkeepers to keep the change and when the waiters parted them on the head. The only people who were not smiling were the invalids shunted from place to place in convoys of wheelchairs. There may be something special about Lourdes but I had a train to catch and miles to go before I sleep.

The midday train to the port of Bayonne curled into the rain-

soaked south-west. The food in the capital of the Basque country sounded fantastic: Bayonne ham, Basque fish stew, gâteau Basque, local herbal liqueurs.

Bayonne was drenched, and the locals had gone indoors leaving the rain to pour down the graffiti-ridden walls. Everything was closed, even the gothic Cathédrale Sainte-Marie. Shivering backpackers had congregated in the only open bar in town to consult their timetables and plan their escape.

Some, desperate for the sun, headed down to Lisbon, while the rest of us decided to sample the sea air of Biarritz ten minutes away. Pony-tailed surfers have given Biarritz a reputation as the California of Europe but the French middle class are putting up a fierce rear-guard action and au pairs and grannies mingle with the bronzed bodies on the promenade.

A profusion of legs, arms and surfboards scrambled on to the midnight train to Paris. There was no buffet, the lavatories were blocked and about 40 of us were locked into our carriage in case we tried to slide into a couchette compartment. For seven hours I was stuck with a Swiss, an Italian and a Californian arguing over lyrics to Doors songs and whether Bob Dylan really did play at the Whisky-A-Go-Go.

In Paris we swapped the obligatory (false) addresses and spilled on to the platform of the Gare d'Austerlitz. Running out of time, I enquired about the boat train to Cherbourg. "There is no train," said a guard disdainfully, and I discovered it was a public holiday.

At the station café James and Matt looked longingly at my pot of Marmite. While I contemplated my next move, they reminisced about Britain. I admitted I had been on the rails for only four days and was not yet feeling deprived. "Come with us. We are catching the Orient Express to Vienna," Matt said. I could stop in Munich tomorrow, Salzburg the next day and be in Budapest by the weekend but, exhausted and with a rucksack of dirty washing, I decided to wait for the night ferry home.

● The Inter-Rail pass for travellers under 26, allowing one month of unlimited second-class travel in Europe, is £180 from British Rail International Rail Centre, Victoria Station, Tel: 071 834 2345. The Inter-Rail 26+ pass costs £280.

Getting paid to see the country, p4

TOMORROW

King of the Proms: the rise and rise of Andrew Davis

At last, some news about pensions you can look forward to.

Tomorrow, and again on Saturday, the FT publishes the Quarterly Review of Personal Finance



Summer 1992. It will cover unit and investment trusts, interest-only mortgages and Peps. Also, a special feature will look at the many types of personal pensions on offer and help you to decide which is the best for you.

Now, more than ever, it's required reading.

No FT...no comment.

Advice to the lovelorn: don't ask

How many roommates is it now that you and I have been sharing these intimate thoughts? Seb? Severn? Whatever, I would have thought that by now it was pretty clear I am not the man to come to for answers.

Just before this column first appeared friends would stop me and say what was all this about me writing about sex in *The Times*? Did I mean, they'd ask, like an agony column sort of thing? And I'd say, we're talking national newspaper of record here not *My Guy*. I mean, I'd say, we're talking Court and Social. Is it likely, I'd say, that the very paper which is regularly used to announce that Her Majesty and chums will be popping along to watch the 3.30 at Haydock Park from close quarters prior to opening the new Tesco in Gidea Park would also take up valuable space telling 16-year-old Troubled of Todmorden that no, you can't get pregnant unless you actually meet the boy at the very least, and please find my useful pamphlet on same enclosed.

But this week I got my very first agony letter. What, a man from Streatham wanted to know, was the best way of breaking off an engagement? He'd been going out with the woman for four years, and they'd just bought a flat together

into which, as far as she understood things, they would be moving as soon as the carpets had been laid. It appeared, though, that no amount of Berber twist would do anything to warm the cold feet which my agoniser had suddenly acquired, and could I help, please?

I started to write a letter full of advice on honesty being the best policy, and was he absolutely sure? and suggesting that perhaps it wasn't her but the thought of commitment itself that was worrying him and... I stopped. Who are these people, I thought, who can write such brief, casual and assured advice to the lovelorn? Here was some wretched woman about to be launched into the choppy sea of unwelcome spinsterdom in an open dinghy and all I knew about her was what I'd been told by a man apparently prepared to accept advice on a matter of such life-changing import from a total stranger whose only qualification was his weekly confession of his own socio-sexual maladroitness. So I checked around the real agony columns for, as it were, help.

That said, as far as I can see there are three schools of agony. The first appears in the old-fashioned woman's magazines, works on the pull-yourself-together-for-heaven's-sake principle and offers, in return for a

PRIVATE LIFE

John Diamond on what his postbag has brought in



stamped and addressed envelope, to send out enlightening little pamphlets called things like *Safe Sex Is Fun Sex* and *Rashes Which Are Probably Nothing To Worry About But If I Were You I'd Check With Your Doctor First Thing*.

Then there are the teenage magazines which have found a way of reconciling the fact that their feature pages are full of sexual innuendo (and, come to that,

the woman or tying himself to her. I had always believed that the agony aunt's job was money for old rope. Who, after all, hasn't read in the agony columns the details of the innumerable ways in which people complicate their lives, and who hasn't known the easy solution to every complication: get a job, get a grip, get a life. I could do that.

What I couldn't do is take any responsibility for the advice. I couldn't bear to think of my man in Streatham sitting at home, alone save for a small, congealing pizza, wondering where the girl who would surely have made his life richer, fuller was now. The room would be silent except for the man's despairing, muttered mantra: "Bloody John Diamond..." Or perhaps in 20 years time he'd be sitting in the family home, the woman he tried to leave in 1992 sitting silently, resentfully on the other side of the room...

The letter I eventually wrote was a craven thing: I don't know, it said. Talk to her about it, or a friend. But I must admit the experience has me worried. I relish your letters, and take heed of them. But to those of you thinking of writing for solutions to their own problems I can offer only this advice: don't ask me; what do I know?

Cinema: Geoff Brown on *My Cousin Vinny*, *Dakota Road* and *Belle de Jour*

Nearly man eclipsed by the Buñuel belle

After more than a decade's work in fairly supporting roles, Joe Pesci finally gets his name in solitary splendour above a film's title. In *My Cousin Vinny* (Odeon West End, 15), the pocket-sized specialist in exuberant Italian-American plays lawyer who passed the bar exam at his sixth attempt and is defending his first case (a murder charge, naturally) far from home in Alabama.

Two college chums, en route to California, have been wrongfully arrested for killing a store clerk in Wahoo City. Hicksville personality (note the roadside sign advertising free horse manure), Greenhorn Vinny, cousin to one of the defendants, rides to the rescue straight from Brooklyn: though to Wahoo citizens, with his black leather, gold chains and ethnic gabble he might as well have landed from the Moon. Scriptwriter and co-producer, Dale Launer (best known for *Ruthless People*) deliberately couched Vinny in Pesci's own image, drawing particularly on his portrayal of Joey LaMotta. Jake's long-suffering brother in *Raging Bull*.

A star should have been born. After all, Pesci has displayed the resources to carry a film, and *My Cousin Vinny* generously spotlights his specialities: the tumbling verbal delivery of his *GoodFellas* thug; the squawking reaction to physical indignities, from *Home Again* and *Lethal Weapon 2*.

Instead, there has been a miscarriage: Launer's wildly uneven script sends Vinny down blind alleys, and relies too often on stale, easy laughs. The bland direction of Jonathan Lynn (an accomplished talent in television series such as *Yes, Minister*, but yet to find his way on the big screen) prevents the disparate scenes fusing. If any star is born during *My Cousin Vinny* it is Marisa Tomei, a relative newcomer who lights up the screen as Vinny's spitfire fiancée, arguing fiercely about dripping taps or anything else that comes to hand.

Fred Gwynne, veteran of *The Munsters*, sprinkles delight as a Southern judge who bestows on the novice billious reprimands, withering glances, and a few nights in prison for contempt. But stylish performers can do only so much: remedial work. *My Cousin Vinny* proceeds at a crawl through its routine plot, the hit-and-miss comedy spluttering away like a damaged firework, undergoing a prolonged final agony. Joe Pesci and the audience deserve a better show.

At the National Film Theatre for eight performances, up pops the valiant, British, but sadly deficient *Dakota Road*, made two years ago

and still doing the rounds. Only last week this first feature by playwright and theatre director Nick Ward won the top prize at Mysterfest, Cattoica's annual festival of mystery and suspense. Maybe the Italian air went to the jurors' heads; or maybe subtitles helped to obscure the laughably laconic dialogue of Ward's rural types, trailing dark sexual passions through the Norfolk fens. *Cold Comfort Farm* comes too easily to mind.

The venture is not entirely risible. Helped by the burnished lighting of cameraman Ian Wilson (Derek Jarman's eyes on *Edward II*), Ward squeezes some cinematic poetry from the flat fen horizons flecked with telegraph poles, two-carriage trains that never seem to stop, and low-flying American combat planes which are based at a nearby airfield.

But even with good actors such as Alan Howard, Ward cannot turn his emotional invalids (one lustful landowner, one teenage sexpot, one nervous orphan, one whimsical vicar, one deadbeat father obsessed with his boots) into people worth caring for. Filled to the sprockets with grey skies, poisoned fish and miserable lives, this kind of film

might lower Norfolk house prices. East Anglian life, of course, is not always as bleak as *Dakota Road* suggests. Each year the Cambridge Film Festival brightens the region with commercial previews, British premieres and mini-retrospectives.

The current festival salutes the Australian eclectic Bruce Beresford and the Polish-born writer-director Agnieszka Holland. The next few days bring Lees Carax's *Les Amants du Pont Neuf*, an indulgent exercise in post-modernist romance and, more rewarding, Tim Robbins' directorial debut *Bob Roberts*, a lively satire on American politics featuring Robbins himself as an oily, right-wing folksinger running for the Senate.

Other films plucked from this year's Cannes line-up include New Zealander Alison Maclean's flawed and abrasive study of sexuality in the melting pot, *Crush*, and Arnaud Desplechin's *La Sentinelle*, a lengthy, overstuffed French head-scratcher concerned in some way with a forensic student, a shrunken head and the fate of the Cold War.

But no event should amaze eyes and ears more than Carl Dreyer's awesome *Passion of Joan of Arc*, unveiled on July 24 and 25, with an electro-acoustic score by French avant-gardist Arnaud Peni. The screenings are being held outdoors, in the New Court, St John's College. Details from the Arts Cinema, Cambridge (0223 352001).



Comic miscarriage: Fred Gwynne (rear), Marisa Tomei and Joe Pesci in *My Cousin Vinny*

'A star should have been born. After all, Pesci has displayed the resources to carry a film'

Pure pleasure, classic satire

The week's best film, *Belle de Jour* (Everyman and MGM Swiss Centre, 18), is now 25 years old, though you never hear its bones creaking. Luis Buñuel's blend of social satire and private fantasy, based on a novel by Joseph Kessel, still seems marvellously crisp and subversive, while in its present print, struck from the original negative, the film has never looked lovelier. Neither has Catherine Deneuve, its ice princess star, caught by Sacha Vierny's camera at the entrancing age of 23, giving one of her sublimest performances as Séverine, the bored Parisienne with masochistic dreams.

A television rarity, and long absent from commercial distri-

bution, *Belle de Jour* tells the story of a bored bourgeois wife exercising her suppressed libido by working afternoons in a brothel. The Sixties was the decade of whirling camera-work, jump cuts and lurid design; but Buñuel, cinema's master surrealist, maintains a lethal calm, weaving nonchalantly between reality, flashbacks and daydreams.

We begin in the middle of one such reverie. Travelling in a landau with her loving husband (Jean Sorel), Séverine is suddenly dragged to a tree, tied down and whipped. Then a family friend (Michel Piccoli) introduces her to the cosy brothel run by Geneviève Page's Madame Anaïs. Repelled at first,

Séverine gradually warms to her afternoon tasks: necrophiliac rituals, passionate sessions with a gold-toothed thug (memorably played by Pierre Clémenti).

Events build to several killings and an enigmatic ending: suddenly we cannot decide where reality finishes and fantasy begins.

Buñuel's undemonstrative style is crucial to the film's power. Our own imaginations are forced into play, whose flinch from a mysterious object buzzing unseen in a client's lacquer box. Buñuel later became plagued by people anxious to know what buzzed: he had no answer. The camera's ellipses and quiet demeanour

also avoid any hint of titillation or moral censure. Buñuel never judges, merely observes with a wicked glint.

The camerawork of Sacha Vierny (now, in his seventies, Peter Greenaway's regular collaborator) always looked clean and bright. This luscious print emphasises the bold colours, tipping the film even more towards the realm of the perverse fairy-tale. In an aesthetic sense, *Belle de Jour* appears ageless, but in one area it glows with period charm. Feast your eyes on Jean Sorel's pullovers. Gaze with awe at Deneuve, dressed by Yves Saint-Laurent, the elegance enhancing her teasing blend of virginal innocence and lustful desires. Look

how young everyone appears. Welcome to cinema's time machine.

Belle de Jour offers more than the pleasures of a classic revisited. Cast around today's art-house product, especially from Europe, and compare. In Buñuel, there is no showing off, no glitzy smorgasbord of parodies and homages to other films. Buñuel pursues his style and subject with rigour and purity. He knows how to provoke through suggestion, and he never shot a commercial in his life. Anyone itching to be the next Beineix, Besson or Lars Von Trier should see *Belle de Jour*, take stock, and think again.

Geoff Brown



A teasing blend of innocence and lustful desires: Catherine Deneuve in *Belle de Jour*

ARTS BRIEF

Rocking roses

ONE-TIME rock superstar Rick Wakeman has written the incidental music for the Stafford Shakespeare Company's forthcoming open-air production of *Wars of the Roses*, to be staged at Stafford Castle. Wakeman, keyboard player with the Strawbs and Yes, scored solo successes with several ambitious concept albums such as *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* and *The Myths and Legends of King Arthur*. He also composed the scores for films such as *The Shining* and *White Heat*, and a new score for the original, silent version of *The Phantom of the Opera*. This is Wakeman's first excursion into the world of Shakespeare: Stafford residents may be interested to hear how his pomp rock style suits the Bard. *Wars of the Roses* — comprising *Henry VI Part III* and *Richard III* — opens on July 26.

Guare transfer

THE Broadway hit, *Six Degrees of Separation*, is transferring to the West End following its successful run at the Royal Court. John Guare's play, about how the lives of wealthy white New Yorkers are affected by a black con artist, is moving to the Comedy Theatre on August 5 for a limited season. *Six Degrees of Separation*, starring Stockard Channing and Adrian Lester, moves in as John Osborne's *Dejávu* moves out at the end of July, after only two months.

Last chance...

A PIONEER — with Stan Getz — of that seductive hybrid jazz-samba, the American guitarist Charlie Byrd has been on tour with the all-star band Great Guitars. With those concerts over, he is playing a series of trio sets at the Pizza Express, Dean Street, London W1 (071-439 8722), ending on Sunday. Byrd, who once studied with Segovia, performs pieces by Antonio Carlos Jobim, on his current album, *The Bossa Nova Years*.

Tomorrow: Richard Cork on Visual Art

CHEL TENHAM FESTIVAL

Clearly committed to the new

Stephen Pettitt finds the musical air fresh and bracing at the Cheltenham Festival, courtesy of several young British talents

There is obviously much more to discover, but this performance by the Bourne-mouth Symphony Orchestra under Kees Bakels made a persuasive introductory case. Previously, they tackled Tippett's *Concerto for Orchestra*, which itself used to be a bit of a hazard, with some flair.

Another new piece heard in the Town Hall was Paul Patterson's *Violin Concerto* — actually for violin and strings — which the Goldberg Ensemble gave on Saturday. The work contains some of the finest music that has come from Patterson's pen, horribly demanding for the soloist. Malcolm Layfield (who met the challenge brilliantly), but dominated by an expressive central adagio. Clearly identifiable themes and motifs make this a listener-friendly piece. Sometimes one has nursed doubts about the depth of Patterson's visions, but here he writes with a genuine feeling, at least until the finale, a Shostakovich-like scherzo.

This adventurous programme had begun with Alex-

ander Goehr's *Romanza on the Notes of the Fourth Psalm* (1977), a curious combination of severe counterpoint and whimsical arabesques. This intellectually rigorous yet restrained, strangely beautiful music was kept skilfully aloft. There was also Klaus Huber's *Aveare Vernet* (1965), for flute (the excellent Jennifer Stinton) and 12 solo strings, a transparently scored post-Webernian exercise, rich in imagination, colour and expression.

Meanwhile, up at that ideal venue for chamber music, the City of London Sinfonia Soloists also included new and recent music in their programme.

The Colombian-Swiss composer George Baroos's *Homenaje a la Selva*, composed in honour of the Amazonian rainforest and of those who are trying to save it, sadly had nothing musically to commend it save its brevity.

Richard Taylor's brand new *Eternal Enigma*, scored for

mixed ensemble, was a far more impressive effort. It concerns the self-regarding obsessiveness of Ludwig II of Bavaria. Each of its four movements explores something constant: the violin cadenza fantasises over a single quiet chord in the first movement, for instance, while the second mixes a jagged, disturbed music with a haunting monotone. Sometimes the pictorialism verges on the naïve, but Taylor is a name to watch.

Two other recent pieces in this concert, both fairly well known, deserve a reinforcement of praise: Michael Berkeley's evocative *Jungle Book* fantasy, *Entertaining Master Punch*, and Judith Weir's marvellously quirky "traditional music from out of space", *Airs From Another Planet*.

The playing was excellent throughout, as was that of the Cheltenham Quartet in the third instalment, broadcast live, of their Bartók/Haydn series, a few scrappy moments in the finale of Haydn's "Lark" Quartet apart. Besides their rich, surprisingly spacious account of Bartók's Third Quartet, there was also John Tavener's First Quartet, "The hidden treasure" (1989). One detected problems here, a



Featured at Cheltenham: cellist Steven Isserlis (left) and composer Paul Patterson



conflict between the opposing influences of orthodox spirituality and of the awesome heritage of Western culture. There was too much activity to fix the work immobile in its icon-like frame, but too little for it to make a satisfying dynamic argument. The cello cadenza, straight from the 19th century, does not help.

Tavener's *Thrinak* (1990), which Steven Isserlis played in his recital on Sunday, comes much closer to realising what one understands as Tavener's objectives: short, restrained, chant-like, almost

without adornment, a lovely and moving homage to a deceased friend.

Isserlis's programme included, besides the two obligatory Bach Cello Suites, Elizabeth Maconchy's substantial, beautifully crafted *Narration* (1955), much underrated, and Robert Saxton's subtle, virtuosic, equally meaty, *Toozita* (1978). The playing was unfailingly, intoxicatingly intense.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Nay-saying the nanny state

suffer an order banning her from access, all because a boyfriend of hers once took a swipe at him. But deep prejudice on the part of police and courts against an unconventional single mother, who chooses to live in a houseboat rather than a tower-block, posited by Hibbert in crisp scenes of official dealings, seemed all too believable.

Especially telling was the inclination of a police officer to credit the boyfriend's story ("I didn't notice anything") as "more consistent" than the distraught mother's. What saved all this, partially at least, from over-schematic

didacticism was the liveliness and convincing oddness of Jane Horrocks's portrayal of the young mother. Horrocks's Maggie could hardly be further removed from the innocent, lost waif typified by Rita Tushingham, pregnant and abandoned by her sailor lover in Tony Richardson's film *A Taste of Honey*, more than thirty years ago.

Maggie was an amazingly resourceful character (very much a product of Thatcher's Britain, I suppose) whose only flaw seemed to be a habit of picking shifty boyfriends. Having begun as a nightclub singer, in the course of the play

she started up two catering businesses, to which she brought enviable gifts of salesmanship and pizzazz.

Those who have seen *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* at the National Theatre report on Horrocks's performance as a singer with an eerie talent for mimicking famous artists: here, too, her Maggie showed, above all, remarkable powers of self-transformation.

Hibbert upped the ante of sympathy: it is one thing to feel sorry for a stray naïve, but when someone as intelligent and determined as Maggie

still loses out to a system controlled by disapproval and fear of risk, you may well conclude that the embittered irony with which Maggie ended is an inevitable reaction.

It is difficult not to side with a woman who serves a lugubrious housing officer with cockroach cake, but Hibbert's drama, directed by George Carse against the expected sombre background of gasometers and wintry canals, might have made more impact if other characters had been developed as fully as Maggie.

Nicholas Woodson, unusually, disappointed as a faceless, bureaucratic social work boss. Only Lesley Manville, in a subtle performance as his deputy, suggested the strains and contradictions of legislating for others' well-being.

HARRY EYRES

BEST FILM PALME D'OR
BEST ACTRESS PERNILLA AUGUSTA
CANNES 1992

"LOOKS GOOD... VERY WELL ACTED...
"GLORIOUS, SUPERB"
WHAT'S ON

"THE ACTING IS OUTSTANDING"
"FASCINATING... BEAUTIFULLY FILMED AND PERFORMED"
THE INDEPENDENT

THE BEST INTENTIONS

WRITTEN BY INGMAR BERGMAN DIRECTED BY BILLE AUGUST

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Getting paid to see the country

A summer job is one of the cheapest ways to visit France. Clare Longrigg on some of the opportunities



WORKING in a foreign country gives a privileged understanding of the place, albeit from the standpoint of the underprivileged. A summer job may lead to something more permanent, and many people find they forge links that will last for years. (The actor Gérard Depardieu's first job was sweeping the beaches in Cannes, and it has always held a special place in his affections.)

In Paris, it can seem as if most of the world is chasing the same jobs. However, Anglophone establishments in Paris have a particular cachet and usually need British employees. You might not get paid, but you will improve your social life.

Shakespeare & Co, the English bookshop in the Latin quarter, has been the haunt of literary exiles since James Joyce and still functions as a salon, with literary tea parties and poetry readings. George, the owner, allows students and travellers to stay in rooms above the shop in return for some non-specific work each day. Claire Judge wrote to him during her A-level year and was invited to "turn up". She was given a place to sleep with a view of Notre Dame, and worked about two hours a day — either in the shop, which stayed open until midnight, or engaged in less literary pursuits, such as scrubbing floors and cooking meals.

"It was an intriguing place. George is really eccentric, he is 78, with a white goatee beard, and he used to shout at us all the time, but it was all a bit of a joke. It was fairly basic but it was a great atmosphere."

English language publications also take on unpaid workers. Louise Aston walked into the office of *Paris Passion*, an arts and listings magazine, and instantly joined a clutch of unpaid general assistants. The job included picture research at the Beaubourg; she also sold the magazine on the street, for which she received FF10 per copy. Although the job mainly consisted of long, tedious hours proof-reading for no money, it had plenty of lures: "People thought it was pretty glamorous, there was a big clique who hung out to-

paying language schools in Paris — about FF27 a lesson three years ago." Berlitz say that current wage rates depend on seniority and the number of lessons given.

In Paris the expatriate network is an excellent source of work contacts for freelance teachers. Ms Poynder arranged private tutorials by placing advertisements in *Paris Passion*, on the British Council noticeboard and at the American Church. She began teaching classes of three or four at a language school, and collected a handful of private students. "With one student, a 40-year-old businesswoman, I used to have wonderful conversations on Sunday mornings for FF100 an hour. I also had a 15-year-old who was really useless. Her parents wanted her to do well but she couldn't grasp the basics. That was pretty depressing, but it was FF120 an hour."

Specialist summer schools frequently take on helpers and administrators. Clare Thomas, a music student at Bath University, worked as a general assistant at a summer school for musicians in the Dordogne. The musicians' students from the Royal Northern College and the Paris Conservatoire took classes from international performers.

Ms Thomas made their breakfast, sorted out arguments in the dorm and drove them down to the beach. For this she received all her expenses, including travel, and generous pocket money. "I look my flute with me but I felt too intimidated to play. It was just great to be working with musicians. The whole place was ringing with music."

The English au pair is still much in demand with French families, and many are required to teach the children English. As many former au pairs will tell you, the job is a

minefield of guilt-ridden mothers, lecherous fathers and spoilt children. The rest will tell you that they adored the children, learnt fluent French and are going on holiday with their former employers on the Côte d'Azur.

There are several agencies in the UK and France which work together to line up English girls with French families. Most take a booking fee of about £40, but only when the job has been accepted. Emma Thorne picked out the classified pages of *The Lady* and a week later flew to Nice

with a six-month contract to look after two children. "It was a politician's family, they were extremely rich and had a big house in the hills above Nice. The children were ten and 12, they were a bit spoilt and we had some heated arguments. The family always spoke French to me, and I went to school with all the other au pairs, so now I'm pretty fluent. They paid me FF1,500 a month, and the mother used to buy things for me all the time. I still miss it."

The tourist industry in France provides a good deal of employment in hotels and restaurants, although the French tend to like their waiters male and French. In his year off, Richard Pitwood went to Paris looking for a job in a bank and ended up as a *plongeur*, washing up in restaurants. He put his name down with a couple of agencies and was up to the elbows in greasy water that evening.



All smiles: some jobs offer remuneration in the form of bed and board, getting to know the locals and the chance to hone one's barbecuing skills.

asking one of the students already peddling wares on the beach, and although commission on each item is pitiful, the sun-ban may make up for it in the end.

With a little more ambition, you can find yourself on a yacht in the Mediterranean. In the bigger harbours, Antibes or Cannes, aspiring sailors go from private yachts to pleasure cruises asking for work, and may be hired to prepare the boat for the charter season, or as a deckhand, earning more than FF1,000 a week, plus tips.

For the less materialistic, there are summer camps run by the youth organisation Jeunesse et Reconstruction. The aim is to promote understanding between people of different nationalities, a process which apparently involves a lot of free manual labour.

Judging by the list available from Concordia in Brighton, the UK agency for Jeunesse et Reconstruction, most of the work, described as "nature conservation" and "restoration", involves clearing either rubble or vegetation. More attractive projects include stage management at a puppet festival, preparing a track for a car rally, and planting a

garden. The camps, for 18 to 30-year-olds, are characterised by remote rural settings and spartan living conditions, often camping. For a registration fee of £50, plus payment of all their own expenses, volunteers are expected to work up to 35 hours a week. Jeunesse et Reconstruction provides the food, but volunteers must cook it.

There are several peace camps and centres of alternative technology which take on volunteers all year round. Roberta Wedge spent a month visiting different centres in France and chose Le Curn de Larzac, a centre, for peace studies and conscientious objectors which also runs workshops including vegetarian cooking and alternative energy. In return for board and lodging in an old vicarage, Ms Wedge worked as an archivist in the library.

These centres tend to be in deeply rural, beautiful settings; the main thing they offer volunteers is an education in green living. Addresses can be found in *The Green Guide to France*. Work your way around the world also contains the addresses of organic farms which take on volunteers in summer. Dustie Hickey, who worked her way across France and developed a sound philosophy for casual work, recommends an open mind and a degree of mobility. "You have to know what you want out of the job," she says. "If you feel you are being exploited, just move on."

● Barry Turner's "When in France" and Peter Barnard's "At Home" column return next week.

TOMORROW
"French music has retreated to folk roots. And we are not talking about accordions." Clare Longrigg on the wealth of live music on offer in France

FACTS AND FIGURES FOR WORKING IN FRANCE

Teaching English
Berlitz: (071-580 6482).
ELT Banbury (0295 263480).
The French Embassy, 23 Cromwell Road, London SW7 2EL (071-581 2608) publishes a leaflet, Teaching Posts in France.

Teaching English Abroad by Susan Griffith (Vacation Work, £7.95) has a list of major language schools in France, including the *Alliance Française* (45 44 38 28).

Au pairs
The Albany Agency (081-454 9883).
Accueil Familial des Jeunes Étrangers (42 22 50 34).
Séjours Internationaux Linguistiques et Culturels, 32 Rempart de l'Est, 16022 Angoulême.

The Au Pair and Nanny's Guide by Susan Griffith and Sharon Legg (Vacation Work, £5.95) advises au pairs to

establish exact duties and hours before the start. Contains advice on coping with everything from newborn babies to homesickness, with encouraging chapter headings such as "Initial Traumas".

Holiday camps
Keycamp Holidays (081 395 8170) hire about 350 couriers each season by April, but there is usually a need for replacements or fresh recruits all summer.

Voluntary work
Jeunesse et Reconstruction (47 70 15 88).
Concordia Ltd (0273 772086).
Ministry of Culture (40 15 80 00) compiles a list of digs, although most require some expertise.

Professor John Collis of the department of archaeology

(0742 78555) at Sheffield University can arrange vacation work on digs.

Nature et Progrès. Service de Remplacement
c/o Michel Champy, chez Roger Fransorel, Alancourt Mancy, 51200 Epernay. *The Green Guide to France* (Greenprint, £5.99).

Books
Work Your Way Around the World by Susan Griffith (Vacation Work, £8.95).
Summer Jobs Abroad, ed David Woodworth (Vacation Work, £6.95).
Working Holidays (Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges, £7.95).
Emplois d'été en France (Vac. Job, available from Vacation Work, 9 Park End Street, Oxford).

● All Paris numbers should be preceded by 016. 2311 dialled from the UK.

FROM BURGUNDY TO PROVENCE

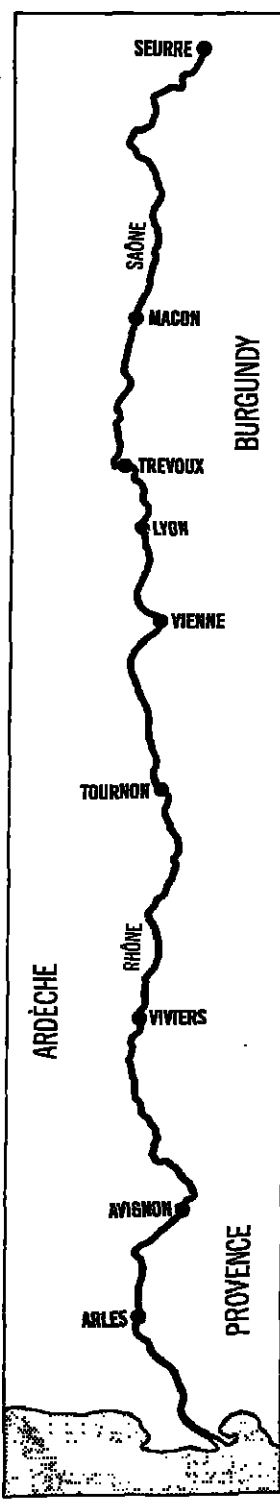
AN EIGHT DAY RIVER JOURNEY ABOARD THE DELUXE 'PRINCESS OF PROVENCE'

An opportunity has arisen to experience one of the world's most elegant and comfortable river vessels on a voyage through France from the glorious countryside of Burgundy to Provence at a cost reduced to half the normal price.

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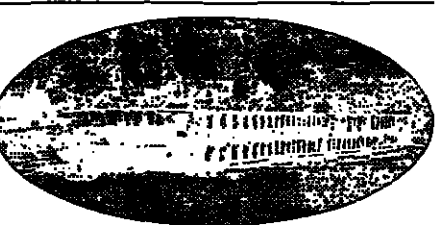


The Princess of Provence is one of the finest river vessels in the world accommodating up to 140 passengers in outside, well-appointed cabins with shower and wc; the top deck cabins have french windows whilst the lower deck offers picture windows. Built in York-hire, she is operated by Peter Dellmann Cruises with a German/French crew. The single-sitting restaurant offers excellent cuisine, there is also a lounge, hairdressers, clinic, shop, observation and sun deck with awning, good sized heated pool and comfortable loungers and deckchairs. The ship's orchestra performs in the evenings and on a number of nights the ship will be moored until late allowing the opportunity of a pleasant stroll after dinner.



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هَذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Last days of the Little Father

On the eve of the Romanov reburial, Orlando Figes examines a new book on Nicholas II and warns against Russia's tsarist cult

Tomorrow will be the 74th anniversary of the murder of Tsar Nicholas II by the Bolsheviks. A special commission was set up last year to authenticate his bones and, now that this has been done, they will no doubt be laid to rest in St Petersburg with due pomp and ceremony. There is even some talk of canonising Russia's last tsar. The cult of Nicholas II — and of everything Romanov — is sweeping the country.

The collapse of communism has left a deep ideological void in Russia. People are flocking to the churches, to supernaturalist showmen and, above all, to the memory of the tsars in the hope of finding salvation. This is a country accustomed to seeing its leaders as gods, and the hunger for belief is a good deal stronger than the power of historical memory. Hatred of the communists and a wilful ignorance of the tsarist reality before 1917 — these are the foundations of the Romanov cult. The logic is simple: since everything about the communists was evil, so everything about the tsars must be good. Russia is a nation of extremes.

The *Last Tsar* is a typical example of the royalty books industry that has sprung up in Russia to service this cult. It is long on sentiment and short on facts. Radzinsky is a playwright and he allows himself considerable artistic licence. The colour of the book's jacket is purple, and so is its prose.

The historical narrative is often broken by stories of the author's own researches in the Soviet archives. There, by his own admission, he was overawed by the "mystical" experience of reading the tsar's handwriting. There are passages of invented dialogue between historical figures and long unattributed quotations. Much of the evidence on the political and social background of the times is

drawn, quite amazingly, from interviews with an old theatrical friend of Radzinsky's, an actress by the name of Vera Yureneva, whose superficial reminiscences are tied at length. The resulting portrait of tsarist society is both impressionistic and nostalgic — which is probably what the author intended.

Nicholas is presented in these pages as an innocent victim of history. Two-thirds of the book is devoted to the last 18 months of his life, when he was a prisoner of the Bolsheviks in Siberia, although nothing happens in this time — at least not until the brutal murder of the imperial family at the height of the civil war in July 1918.

Radzinsky's claims to originality

THE LAST TSAR
The Life and Death
of Nicholas II
By Edward Radzinsky
Hodder & Stoughton, £20

are strongest here. In 1989 he caused a minor sensation in Russia when he published the testimonies of some of the tsar's Bolshevik executioners in *Ogoniok*, the flagship journal of glasnost. He presents them again here, along with a running account of the readers' letters he received and their highly speculative revelations about the unknown details of the murder. All this is useful. Lenin's direct complicity in the atrocity now looks more certain, then ever. But it does not radically alter what we know, and nor does it really strengthen the theory — which Radzinsky seems ready to credit nonetheless — that two of the tsar's children might have survived.

The rest of the book is padding — most of it consisting of extended citations from the diaries of the tsar with fawning commentaries by

Radzinsky. This was a major part of the book's appeal in Russia, where the diaries had long been neglected. But western historians have never made much use of the diaries since their publication back in the 1920s. They were written in the conventional manner for an aristocrat during the Edwardian era (which is just what Nicholas was) — a terse and monotonous listing of the day's little happenings without expression of the author's opinions or his personal feelings. A meteorologist could learn more from Nicholas's diary than a historian.

At the height of the 1905 revolution, which nearly cost him his throne, Nicholas noted: "April 14: Took a walk in a thin shirt and took up paddling again. Had tea on the balcony." And in February 1917, only days before his abdication, another typical entry: "Read the Life of Julius Caesar and in the evening played dominoes."

By citing these diaries at length Radzinsky reinforces the mythical image of the tsar as a victim of history. How could he be guilty, or deserving of his monstrous fate, when so much of his time was taken up by such innocent and civilised activities? Yet this is to neglect the active role which Nicholas played in shaping the reactionary policies of his government, in weakening the executive institutions of the monarchy, and in authorising the murder of thousands of demonstrating workers and peasants — all of which might help to explain his own bloody end. But that is not Radzinsky's purpose, nor that of the cult of Nicholas II. The desire for an innocent martyr, a symbol of the nation's suffering under communist rule, is stronger than history itself.

Dr Orlando Figes is the author of *Peasant Russia, Civil War: The Volga Countryside in Revolution, 1917-21* (OUP).



This Bolshevik poster of 1918 caricatures a priest, Tsar Nicholas II and a kulak, implicitly justifying the liquidation of all three

Snubbing the good German

Patricia Meehan's book is a new version of the "Good Man" thesis. The original version blamed the drift war in 1939 on the failure of Chamberlain and his weak-kneed cronies to stand up to Hitler while it was still possible to do so. When Churchill called the second world war "the unnecessary war" he meant that Hitler should have been stopped earlier by military measures.

Now Patricia Meehan has extended his phrase to cover the parallel failure of Britain to recognise and assist the anti-Nazi opposition within Germany, which, it is argued, only needed outside encouragement to overthrow Hitler and avert war that way. In particular she gives credence to the idea that there was a fully planned army push, ready to move against Hitler at the time of the Czech crisis in September 1938, if only Chamberlain had not cut the ground from under the conspirators by flying out to concede all the Führer's demands at Munich.

The *Unnecessary War* belongs to the counter-factual school of history, which seeks to suggest that if only ABC had happened then XYZ need not have happened and everything would have turned out differently. Yet unquestionably the author presents a powerful case, soundly rooted in the Foreign Office files.

It has long been known that there was more contact between the Foreign Office and representatives of the German opposition before 1939 than the British subsequently wished to admit. But Patricia Meehan is the first to document these contacts in detail and to lay bare from official sources the determination of the British establishment to accord the conspirators no recognition or encouragement. She draws a devastating picture of complacency, prejudice and wilful refusal to listen to accurate warnings of Hitler's intentions because they came from undercover sources.

Simply at the level of political intelligence, it is a record of extraordinary incompetence; but it is the moral blindness which really exercises her. She writes well, so that it is easy to be carried along by her passionate belief that Britain was guilty of a shameful betrayal of a brave minority of decent, highly placed Germans who risked and — most of them — lost their lives in a vain effort to save their country from disaster.

The most shocking document in the whole catalogue is a memo by the historian Sir John Wheeler-Bennett, then in the Foreign Office's Political Intelligence Department, frankly welcoming not only the failure of the 1944 bomb plot against Hitler, but also the reprisals against the plotters, which conveniently removed from the scene "numerous individuals who might have caused us difficulty". Wheeler-Bennett wrote: "The Gestapo and the SS have

done us an appreciable service in wiping out a selection of those who would undoubtedly have posed as 'good' Germans after the war... It is to our advantage... that the purge should continue since the killing of Germans by Germans will save us from future embarrassments of many kinds."

This is a curious stuff. Yet Meehan does not ask herself why the British decided to take the German opposition seriously, still less whether they might have been right. Was the Foreign Office simply being stupid, or was it in fact exercising a political judgement which whether right or wrong — was reasonable at the time?

The common-sense British line was that if the opposition to Hitler was serious it should prove itself by overthrowing him. Then London would deal with the new regime: until then it was bound to deal with the existing government which, however abominable, was still the legitimate government. It is easy today, with the experience of 40 years of the denazified West Germany, to believe that the opposition to Hitler was made up of nice democratic Germans, the precursors of Willy Brandt and Helmut Kohl. But in the 1930s few British policy-makers had any reason to believe in the notion of a "good" German.

They had all been through 1914-18. They did not believe that Hitler was an aberration, but merely the latest ugly manifestation of perennial Prussianism. They had no confidence that a self-appointed "opposition" drawn from the German army and the old German governing caste would be any less expansionist than Hitler or the Kaiser before him.

If anything Hitler and his gang represented a welcome break with the imperial past. When Hitler's regime began to crumble, Whitehall was entitled to be unimpressed by conspirators whose obvious motive seemed to be to save their own skins. The Allies were not going to repeat the mistake they had made in 1918 by letting Germany off the hook. Until the onset of the Cold War changed everything, Churchill as much as anyone was determined to crush Germany once and for all.

Patricia Meehan has marshalled some first-class material into a fine polemic. Yet her book judges the past by the standards of the present. With hindsight, it is easy to argue that Chamberlain, Cadogan and the rest were wrong not to put their faith in the German opposition. Maybe Ernst von Weizsäcker, Carl Goerdeler and Ludwig Beck would have established a peace-loving, democratic Germany in 1938 if they had seized their courage in both hands and made a go of it. But good history should entail an attempt to understand why the Foreign Office did not believe them, not merely condemnation of its officials for being sceptical.

John Campbell

THE UNNECESSARY WAR

By Patricia Meehan
Sinclair-Stevenson, £18.99

South London blues

Alison Roberts

DUNEDIN
By Shena Mackay
Heinemann, £14.99

THEY CAME FROM SW19

By Nigel Williams
Faber, £14.99

today's New Zealand end up in a rather surreal detention centre for down-and-outs. And we slowly realise that Jay Pascal's new Kiwi blood is actually as old as the sordid affair which besmirched the name of Jack Mackenzie, the minister thrown out of the sunny New World because of a pretty washer-woman. People and places are linked by the strands of DNA which criss-cross time and space. In the end we see that the botanical specimen, *Mackenzia Officialis*, which Jack Mackenzie yearned after in 1910, but never found, is after a strain of selfishness found in his granddaughter Olive, mixed with a rare compassion which forms part of grandson William's genetic make-up.

It is a novel with tastes and smells. The forced cruelty of Olive Mackenzie, the lonely descendant of lascivious Jack is salt and sour. Her brother William's haunting memory of a schoolgirl's death is acid and smells of the oily railway

line upon which she fell. Terry Turner, the thwarted writer, whoozy from whisky and alcoholic lunches, lurches from suppur to suppur.

Puffed as comedy, the moments of black humour — "My mother's definition of a wild mushroom would be a Chesswood Creamed Button which slipped off the toast" — are outweighed by a poignant sadness which lurks in neglected gardens and the flight of birds. Sparks of human potential are glimpsed only to die out, killed by

the force of a memory, by ingrained selfishness or by the city itself.

The book is woven from threads of narrative without much plot. Clever echoes resound: from tribal head snatchers to Forest Hill baby-snatchers, from 19th-century misogyny to Turner's callous treatment of women, and from the menace of an imminent European war to the less concrete threat of violence which hangs over modern London streets. *Dunedin* is a good, thoughtful book, full of the trivial emotions which underlie any great costume drama passions and which are, in the end, the more important stuff of life.

Nigel Williams's London is altogether funnier, but equally upside down. Sometimes whacky, sometimes hysterical, more often provoking horse-laughs than titters. *They Came from SW19* follows superbly in the suburban steps of *The Wimbledon Poisoner*.

Most of this is slapstick stuff about aliens with buckets on their

heads and mad members of the First Church of Christ the Spiritualist, South Wimbledon, who believe in life after death and say things like "Is there a plentiful sufficiency of baps" and "Wave thine extremities and be joyful". But the novel benefits from the rather more serious undercurrent which becomes fully visible only on the last page of the book, when the reversal of values prevalent throughout takes on a nastier hue.

Simon Britton, the 14-year-old narrator, feels abandoned by his father when Norman Britton suddenly dies. Simon is beaten up by the mad church leader, Quigley of the enormous extremity, and things are complicated by the disappearance of Mr Marr, Wimbledon's resident ufologist, widely believed to have been taken by little green men, and by the appearance of Simon's dad, whose ghostly entrance shocks and fools.

When adults are afflicted by a childish gullibility, children may take on an adult cynicism: the result is an unhappy state of affairs. This is a book for the seriously light-hearted, but not for the superstitious.

Small mercies of war

Henry Stanhope

SEIZING THE ENIGMA

By David Kahn
Souvenir Press, £15.99

PRISONER OF HOPE

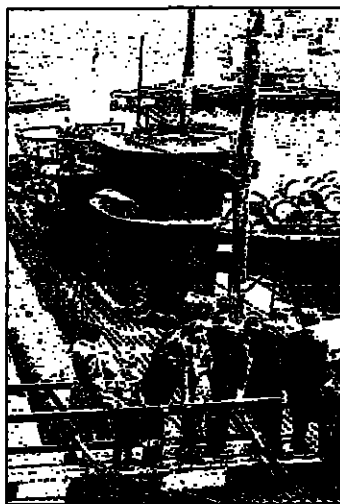
By David Wild
Book Guild, £12.95

ECHOES OF WAR

By Robert Giddings
Bloomsbury, £15.99

WARRIORS' WORDS

By Peter G. Tsouras
Cassell/Arms and Armour, £19.99



May 1945: crowds inspect a U-boat at Westminster

Prisoner of Hope is the tale of his captivity.

Conditions there sound like a marginal improvement on Eton. He describes his daily routine in 1942 as starting with morning tea, brought by his batman. After breakfast (porridge and two rounds of bread) he left the batman to clean his room while he went for a walk, played the piano or sunbathed. There were hospital visits after lunch (German soup and potatoes) and, in the evening, a concert, lecture, or a rubber of bridge. Later he was allowed out, with a German

guard, to visit work parties on local farms. Meanwhile, there were also food parcels from, among others, Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, who had heard of a fellow Old Etonian in need.

But Wild also writes with endearing candour of his own shyness and self-doubt, and his mental agony on entering a barrack room full of soldiers. The result is an honest account of life in Stalag XXA: no tunnels, escape committees or wooden horses — just hunger, separation and uncertainty.

Robert Giddings's anthology of war literature starts with an excerpt from the *Mahabharata*, which describes tribal struggles on the Ganges plains between 2000 and 600 BC, and ends with newspaper reports of last year's Gulf war.

One of its merits is the imaginative selection, which stretches far beyond Homer, Churchill, Wilfred Owen and *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. There are also General Sir Garnet Wolseley on the Zulu Wars, Lloyd George's memoirs and a range of humbler poets and peasants, all punctuated by Giddings's thoughtful commentary.

"It is a good thing," wrote Churchill in *My Early Life*, "for an uneducated man to read books of quotations." In that sense *Warriors' Words* might serve as a precious textbook. It consists of quotes by more than 250 soldiers, statesmen and military philosophers, on the conduct of war and its consequences. They reflect nearly 4000 years, from Pharaoh Sesostris in 1871 BC to General "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf only last year. These are organised into 350 subject headings and accompanied by a biographical index.

Schwarzkopf is quoted as many as seven times. In the war of words, however, he is easily defeated by Mao (25), Montgomery (53) and Clausewitz (99). As for Wellington (36), he is routed by the more loquacious Bonaparte, who fires a barrage of nearly 150.

Henry Stanhope is a former defence correspondent of The Times.

EUROPE 1937

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■ Leading a substantial programme to upgrade the supply and distribution network. Overseeing major engineering and capital investment programmes to extend capacity and services and secure further resources. Overall capital spend c. £20 million p.a.

■ Managing the profitable development of embryonic service companies competing in the open market.

THE QUALIFICATIONS

■ Chartered Engineer or equivalent in mid 30s/early 40s. Proven success in managing substantial projects and numbers of people in service/distribution businesses ideally with a major utility or engineering supplier.

■ Commercially astute with flexible and creative approach to broad business issues. Skilled in appraising capital projects and balancing cost against benefit.

■ Natural leader who can manage change, develop people and build inspired and committed teams focused on customer care and quality. Ideally proficient in a European language and internationally mobile.

London 071-973 8484
 Manchester 061-437 0375

Selector Europe
 A Spencer Stuart Company

Please reply, enclosing full details to:
 Selector Europe, Ref 521180721,
 16 Connaught Place,
 London, W2 2ED

c£55,000 package

National Westminster Bank

Manchester

Regional Manager-Property

Exciting opportunity to lead the development of property management services in the North of England for this leading bank. Outstanding professional challenge to develop and deliver best management practices, realising value for money and maximising asset values. Exceptionally interesting task - very substantial portfolio of properties with significant budgets for capital projects and facilities management. Excellent opportunities for career progression.

THE ROLE

■ Responsible for the leadership and motivation of a multi-disciplinary team of 80 based in the Regional Office in Manchester. Managing the regional property portfolio and delivering property services to business units.

■ Strengthening relationships with internal and external clients and property users. Directing facilities management, estate management and project functions through departmental heads.

■ Overall management and direction of agreed programmes, resources and budgets to meet objectives. Regional strategy formulation and input to national policy issues.

THE QUALIFICATIONS

■ First class record of leadership and initiative in general management positions preferably with large, multi-disciplinary teams. Skilful team manager and motivator. Graduate calibre.

■ Strong strategic thinker. Disciplined analyst and planner with demonstrable commercial instincts. Successful, mature leader with flair for building relationships. Property sector experience desirable.

■ Persuasive and articulate communicator. An ambassador prepared to lead radical developments with real enthusiasm and commitment.

London 071-973 8484
 Manchester 061-437 0375

Selector Europe
 A Spencer Stuart Company

Please reply, enclosing full details to:
 Selector Europe, Ref 531190721,
 16 Connaught Place,
 London, W2 2ED

Director, Information Technology And Management Services

South East England,
 c£70,000 package

Hoggett Bowers

BIRMINGHAM, BRISTOL, CAMBRIDGE, CARDIFF, EDINBURGH, LEEDS, LONDON,
 MANCHESTER, NEWCASTLE, WINDSOR and representation throughout EUROPE

Part of a major group this highly successful financial services company is now seeking to strengthen its management team by appointing a candidate of the highest calibre to be responsible for information technology and management services. Reporting to the Managing Director the main responsibilities will be to advise the board on information technology, to evaluate and enhance existing systems, to raise the companies competitiveness by promoting and introducing to the company changes to services and methods and also to direct, control and manage the introduction of total quality management. Aged over 35 the successful candidate will need to have at least 10 years experience in information technology and management services with a minimum of 5 years in a No. 1 role, within a finance house, bank, building society or insurance company. It is essential that you are self motivated and can demonstrate excellent leadership and communication skills. In addition to the attractive salary, the package includes an executive car, non-contributory pension, health cover and other benefits, usually associated with a progressive company in the financial services sector.

Male or female candidates should submit in confidence a comprehensive c.v. to: G.J. Deakin, Hoggett Bowers plc, 13 Frederick Road, Edgbaston, BIRMINGHAM, B15 1JD, 021-455 7575, Fax: 021-454 2338, quoting Ref: B18352/ST.

c£50,000 package + equity + benefits

Electronic Controls

North East

Managing Director

Rapidly growing and autonomous £5m + UK subsidiary of innovative US electronic control manufacturer seeks an entrepreneurial general manager with strong marketing and financial skills. Established customer base with outstanding potential to expand into new market sectors. Rare opportunity to leave corporate bureaucracy and become accountable for a stand-alone business.

THE ROLE

■ Reporting to the CEO in the US, responsible for implementing structured marketing and financial disciplines in a technical manufacturing environment.

■ Take a personal lead in developing successful commercial relationships with a number of Europe's largest blue-chip manufacturers.

■ Manage, motivate and develop a young, committed and well-established team.

THE QUALIFICATIONS

■ Ideally technical graduate with additional business qualification, probably 35+. Proven general manager with previous profit/loss responsibility in a high-tech OEM environment.

■ Strong track record of developing complex, long-term technical component sales agreements with European manufacturers.

■ Enthusiastic, self-motivated and commercially focused. Entrepreneurial flair underpinned with classic corporate disciplines.

London 071-973 8484
 Manchester 061-437 0375

Selector Europe
 A Spencer Stuart Company

Please reply, enclosing full details to:
 Selector Europe, Ref 561200724,
 Adlington Court, Greenacres Business Park,
 Sneyd Road, Manchester M22 5LG

Sales Director

Specialist Engineering

£45,000 OTE

Midlands

A challenging opportunity to lead the UK and international sales team of a successful and growing high tech engineering company.

THE COMPANY

■ Leading UK engineer in technically exciting and challenging capital goods sector. Low volume, high value sales.
 ■ Profitable and export orientated. Sound financial backing and strong management team.
 ■ Excellent sales and service support and international agent network. Good direct sales record.

THE POSITION

■ Lead international and UK sales activity. Formulate strategic sales/marketing plans.
 ■ Negotiate key sales contracts with customised applications. Continue development of agents worldwide.

■ Manage sales and associated support team. Report to MD.

QUALIFICATIONS

■ Proven track record of successful UK/International sales, preferably from high-tech, capital equipment sector, direct and through agents.
 ■ Engineering/materials science graduate, age 35-45. Team leader. Experience of materials, aerospace, automotive and thermoplastic industries ideal.
 ■ Energetic, forward looking, deal closer. Highly responsive to customer requirements. Contributor to long term company strategy.

Please reply in writing, enclosing full cv.
 Reference B12849
 NBS, Bennetts Court, 6 Bennetts Hill
 Birmingham B2 5ST

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BRITISH FIELD SPORTS SOCIETY

Chief Executive

London based

The BFSS is the only organisation committed to the defence of all field sports. A new Chief Executive is sought to replace John Hopkinson when he retires early in 1993.

The society has been notably successful in defending the right to fish, hunt and shoot. But the threat is growing and the BFSS must increase its membership and revenues and expand its educational, public relations and government lobbying activities.

We seek a Chief Executive of very high calibre. A track record as a leader, manager and communicator is essential. A commercial background, ideally in marketing is preferred. Knowledge of country life is important and fund raising experience would be useful. Above all, we require a passionate determination to preserve the freedom to follow field sports in Britain.

While candidate's real motivation will be the challenge and importance of the role, the Society also offers reasonable remuneration including pension and car.

If you are interested or can recommend suitable candidates, please write to NBSselection, 54 Jermyn Street, London, SW1Y 6LX, quoting reference L2732.



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Oxfordshire District Health Authority Chief Executive Designate

£60,000 negotiable plus car

Oxford

By 1994 the Oxfordshire District Health Authority will become solely a purchasing authority. This will play a key role in shaping the pattern of healthcare provision within Oxfordshire by negotiating and purchasing healthcare on behalf of its 600,000 residents. Fundamental to this task is the assessment of healthcare needs and the allocation of the £160m budget to serve those needs.

A Chief Executive Designate is now sought to lead the purchasing work of the Authority.

THE APPOINTMENT

- Reports to the Health Authority Chair.
- Responsible for determining purchasing strategy over the long and short term.
- Responsible for maintaining financial control and ensuring value for money.
- Represents the Authority to the community, healthcare providers within them some of the

UK's leading centres for medical training and research) and other statutory bodies.

REQUIREMENTS

- Demonstrable career achievement at senior level as a manager of change in the public or private sectors; ideally you will have operated at Director level with financial accountability.
- Degree level education.
- Experience of handling wide scale consultation and/or negotiations.
- Experience of handling the media and of acting as a spokesperson.

The appointment will be on a three year rolling contract and is eligible for performance-related pay. Please send your CV quoting reference 90357B and including current salary details to Ms Jane Pollard, K/F Associates, 12 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6DF. The closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 3rd August 1992.

K/F ASSOCIATES
Selection & Search

A DIVISION OF ROBIN FERRY INTERNATIONAL

International Drinks Area Directors

To £40,000 + Car & Bonus

Central London

This independent premium spirits company seeks two Area Directors to manage the Latin American and Northern European Regions, as part of a small, professional management team.

THE APPOINTMENT

- Develop and implement marketing strategy and manage brand performance.
- Build brand commitment in distributor sales and marketing teams and handle complex duty-free sector negotiations.
- Contribute to development of brand promotional and marketing tools.
- Undertake substantial travel within the local markets.

REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate, at least 30 years old.
- Fluency in Spanish and German respectively for the two roles; other European languages useful, particularly French.
- Classically trained, sales-driven marketer. Proven track record in drinks or other premium consumer goods.
- Hands-on management style and entrepreneurial flair.

Please apply in writing with a full CV and salary details quoting reference 90448/A to: Susannah Truswell, K/F Associates, Pepys House, 12 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6DF.

K/F ASSOCIATES
Selection & Search

A DIVISION OF ROBIN FERRY INTERNATIONAL

BUSINESS PROJECT MANAGERS

c.£45,000 + Car + Benefits

To take ownership of major projects in support of enterprise-wide programmes

Our client is one of the principal players in the most dynamic arena within the telecommunications industry. They have achieved exceptional financial returns and have considerable resources to invest to position themselves as the clear market leader within a three year timescale.

In order to achieve this and meet the developing needs of a rapidly expanding market place, they have initiated a series of strategic and tactical programmes, the benefits of which are already being felt across the business.

To drive these programmes successfully, a number of Project Managers are now required. Your role will be to take ownership of specific projects aimed at developing both the commercial and technological positioning of the company. The projects will impact on all the functional areas within the business, and will be resourced across the company.

You will need experience of managing large scale projects to rigorous deadlines and to pre-set budgets. You must have demonstrated your skill in co-ordinating multi-disciplined teams and be

capable of influencing key people in your efforts to deliver results.

In order to operate in this non-hierarchical environment you will require considerable communication and planning skills and a knowledge of computerised project management tools would be an advantage.

Experience specifically within the telecommunications or other high technology industries is not essential. Your project management experience will probably have been gained within a blue chip company or a leading management consultancy and you will have a clear record of achievement.

To have gained the required level of experience it is unlikely that you will be less than 30 years of age and you will probably be in possession of at least a first degree.

If you believe you have the skill and experience to succeed in this demanding role, then please contact Jonathan Wright or Bruce Wedderburn at the address below quoting reference no. JW808.



Cathy Tracey & Associates Ltd.
Staverton House, 3-5 Easthamstead Road, Wokingham,
Berkshire, RG11 2EH. Tel: 0734 771100. Fax: 0734 771223

Young Systems Professionals

Packages from £25K to £40K - London

*"In our fast developing environment
four qualities distinguish the fast-track performer:
a rare flair for user interface... strong commercial acumen...
a high calibre degree... and an impressive technical grasp."*

These are the hallmarks of success at J.P. Morgan. As one of the most highly regarded, profitable and IT-reliant banks in the world, we simply cannot afford to compromise on quality. That is why we seek only the best and select relatively few.

This holds true for the systems professionals we are now recruiting. They will come from a variety of backgrounds...

A number will have strong PC, database and systems development skills. Some will have a good grounding in VAX and Ingres environments. Others will come from an IBM mainframe background and will have mastered PL/I or COBOL. Finally, we are also interested in people with development experience gained on workstations running UNIX, 'C' and, ideally, Sybase. Other relational database exposure will, however, be considered.

Whatever their technical background, though, all will have certain key qualities... a high calibre degree (at least 2:1), 1-3 years' solid systems experience and an impressive record of achievement. An adaptable, flexible mind with the ability to think laterally and logically is also essential. Perhaps most important of all, we want to meet people with a refreshing grasp of business realities. Professionals

who see the commercial application of systems innovations and can confidently explain their bottom-line implications to end-users.

It's a demanding brief that calls for talented communicators with a special flair for cultivating a close rapport - often at the very highest levels of management. Gifted performers who can operate as team players - delivering advanced, yet reliable and practical solutions.

Few, if any, environments can offer such a range of challenges for your technical talents and career ambitions. Fewer still offer the chance to play an influential role in such a high profile, technology team. We can also offer the certain promise that the only limit to your progress is you.

The outstanding package includes a subsidised mortgage. After a year you will also qualify for a profit-sharing bonus and non-contributory pension.

To apply, please call our consultant Simon Girven on 071-253 7172 during office hours. Alternatively, send your cv, quoting ref555, to him at JM Management Services Limited, Chandos House, 12-14 Berry Street, London EC1V 0AQ. Fax 071-253 0420.

JPMorgan

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MANAGER

■ This is a superb opportunity to join a highly successful and profitable private retail organisation, with a turnover of around £65m. The company currently has 110 outlets across the North West, selling a wide range of value-for-money clothing, and there are firm plans for further expansion.

■ Following a review of corporate strategy, we now require an experienced IT Manager to head up a dedicated team of IT professionals. Reporting to the Managing Director you will be responsible for a substantial IT investment programme, which will provide full support to the company's expansion plans. As part of the Executive Team you will be expected to contribute to the commercial success of the organisation.

■ You should have held a management position within the IT function of a medium to large commercial organisation. Experience of the retail or distribution sector would be particularly useful. You will have managed high value IT investment projects and have held substantial budget responsibility. Diplomacy, leadership and commitment are essential characteristics for success. Experience of 4GL's, RDBMS and Unix is a pre-requisite.

■ The company offers an excellent remuneration package including a high basic salary, profit related pay, fully-expensed executive car, PHI, medical insurance and relocation assistance where applicable.

■ To apply, please send your CV to Tim Smith, Theaker Monro & Newman, Archway House, Station Road, Chester, CH1 3DW quoting ref: 3032.

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North West

Package to
£40,000Executive Car
and Benefits

**THEAKER
MONRO
NEWMAN**

RECRUITMENT & PERSONNEL
CONSULTANTS

Regional Manager

A dynamic entrepreneur
to further the success of
the UK's fastest growing
specialist childrenswear
retailer

Excellent package
including executive
benefits & quality car

Midlands & South



Everyone has an equal right to grow with us

Adams, part of Sears Childrenswear, is the leading name in specialist childrenswear and is a major influence in the retail market. Our vigorous expansion programme has doubled our size in just 3 years and we now have over 260 stores throughout the UK with exciting plans for further development.

Key to our success is the importance we place on people - our greatest asset. Internal promotion has now created this excellent opportunity for a high calibre, experienced retail professional.

One of three Regional Managers reporting to the Sales Director, you will be responsible, with a team of 5 Area Managers, for maximising the profitability of stores within your region with a £20m million turnover.

In this challenging role you will be at the centre of activity in all aspects of the business, from setting and controlling major budgets to site acquisition and developing strong links with the buying and merchandising teams. Your strong communication and interpersonal

skills will be tested in co-ordinating all of the retail activities across the Company.

An entrepreneur with creative flair, you must be able to demonstrate the ability to inject fresh, new ideas into the business and stimulate others to bring these ideas to fruition. A minimum of 5 years retail management experience gained within a high street multiple within fashion retailing is essential.

Our salary and benefits package is designed to attract and retain talented, ambitious individuals. Opportunities for career development within this expanding organisation are excellent and to support your career aspirations, we provide individually tailored personal development programmes.

To apply, write with full CV, including salary indicator, to:-

Paul Wiggins
Human Resource Director
Adams Childrenswear Limited
Aldershot House
Trentham Drive, Mansfield
Nottinghamshire CV11 6RU

Technical Manager

£40,000 - £60,000 + car.

To direct operations and manage expansion of technical services for Sun's largest reseller.

In 1989, Morse added to its successful PC sales operation a small division to supply Sun workstations. Little did we know then that today we would be Sun's largest reseller, or that our workstation sales would outstrip our PC sales.

From a single UNIX 'technician' in 1989, we now have the best systems and project management teams outside of Sun itself. We are planning for major growth of pre- and post-sales operations, both to keep pace with expanding sales and to extend the types of services we offer clients.

To do this we need a business-oriented technical manager. We need someone who will help us develop relationships with key industry partners and who will help us steer the technical direction of the company. This person will be a graduate and in the age range 28-33.

Please write to Nick Read, Director, Morse Computers Ltd, 17 Sheen Lane, London SW14 8HY.

MORSE

Director... and needing a job

By working together we have total commitment to helping you to find the right job. Our methods lead to hundreds of opportunities at senior level across a wide range of services and industries. £40k + 10%.

Continued professional support from start to finish. Special Government interest loan to tide you over, if required. Call us on 071-428 1224. In-house training can help you help yourself.

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DIRECTORS SEEKING A NEW ROLE



Demand more than well meaning Career Counselling or Outplacement advice. Insist on real direction to your job search based on current market intelligence from the largest outplacement and career management consultancy providing cost effective services to employers and to individuals seeking career progression.

Our subsidiary InterMEX accesses over 6000 unadvertised vacancies annually - mostly between £40,000 and £200,000 p.a. - and makes recommendations from its approved candidate bank without charge.

Call Keith Mitchell on 071-930 5041 for an exploratory meeting without obligation. Lansdown House, 19 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0ES. Fax 071-930 5048.

INTERMEX P.L.C. - a division of InterMEX Ltd

مركز التوظيف

Petroleum Engineer

International Banking

Excellent package including banking benefits

London

High profile role for experienced Petroleum Engineer to provide in-house technical expertise in project finance for the oil industry.

THE COMPANY

- Leading commercial bank, with outstanding reputation in complex structured financing.
- Impressive track record with blue chip client base in up- and downstream oil industry.
- Continuing drive to expand penetration of international markets.

THE POSITION

- Provide sole in-house technical expertise in Petroleum Engineering.
- Responsible for risk analysis of broad range of up- and downstream projects.
- Involved in marketing bank's services internationally.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Age 35+, good technical degree, ideally with MSc in Petroleum Engineering.
- Blue chip training with major, minimum 10 years in Petroleum Engineering with operator.
- Broad technical background to include knowledge of Reservoir Engineering, International perspective. Exposure to senior management.
- Outstanding achiever, handle high profile role with ease. Strong personality. Comfortable working with minimum of support.

Please reply in writing, enclosing full cv, Reference L2843
54 Jermya Street, London, SW1Y 6LX

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SOME OF THE FINEST ENGINEERS
IN THE WORLD. SO WHY ARE WE
SENDING THEM TO COVENTRY?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Cable & Wireless Telecommunications College

Cable & Wireless is a world telecommunications company with a long established tradition of excellence in training throughout the world.

Our new purpose built college in Coventry is a £22 million investment and is due to open in mid 1993. The prospectus will cover all aspects of telecommunications training including a B.Eng (Hons) Degree programme, BTEC National and Higher National Diploma courses and a number of short, specialised programmes. It will also be expected to provide a Training Consultancy Service to the rest of the Group in its new business ventures.

The College will be a world centre of technical training excellence drawing students from the 50 countries in which Cable & Wireless operates. Its average occupancy will be 300 students. It will have 70 employees and be run as a profit centre.

As Chief Executive you will be:

- A professionally qualified academic, ideally in an appropriate scientific discipline
- A business person and competent manager with proven commercial flair
- An ambassador able to develop a truly international role for the College

The position attracts a highly competitive salary and benefits package that you would expect from a leading Company.

The anticipated opening date for the new college is July 1993. Prior to that the Chief Executive designate will be asked to work with the present Chief Executive in Cornwall, who is due to retire at the time of the move.

Please write enclosing a full C.V. to:
Christine Ferguson, Personnel Department,
Cable and Wireless plc, New Mercury House,
26 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4UQ.
Telephone: 071-315 4008.

CABLE & WIRELESS

Corporate Development Executive

Blue Chip Manufacturing Plc

To £45,000 package

London

Challenging opportunity for a young, ambitious business graduate to play a key role in facilitating the development of a prestigious company with strong senior management and an exceptional product base.

THE COMPANY

- Major UK plc. Devolved structure with tight knit head office team of outstanding functional specialists.
- Manufacturer of world leading engineering products with substantial overseas sales.
- Established high profile corporate development function committed to maximising shareholder value.

THE POSITION

- Key member of small head office team. Support Head of Corporate Development and liaise closely with UK and overseas subsidiaries.
- Make significant contributions to planning process.

- Conduct ad hoc reviews for Executive Board, particularly acquisitions and disposals.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Engineering graduate MBA, aged 28-32, with at least two years' experience with a blue chip manufacturer or consultancy.
- Financially fluent with successful track record in strategic analysis.
- Flexible and adaptable team player with shrewdness approach and first class communication skills. Capable of operating to stringent deadlines.

Please write, enclosing full cv, Ref L2842
54 Jermya Street, London, SW1Y 6LX

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Marine Manager

Upstream Oil Industry

Highly competitive package

North East Scotland

High profile position for Master Mariner with strong commercial skills to play a key role in this highly progressive company.

THE POSITION

- Reporting at General Manager level, new role in this well established business.
- Oversee chartering activities; high level liaison role with outside agencies.
- Bring strong commercial focus to operational matters.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Age late 30s to 50; Master's ticket preferred.
- Excellent track record at senior level in marine operations in upstream industry in UK or overseas.
- Maturity, presence, with strong business acumen. Comfortable working at all levels.

Please reply in writing, enclosing full cv,
Reference RL2840
NBS, 24 Carden Place, Aberdeen, AB1 1UQ

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two senior management opportunities electronic diagnostics

Wiltshire

£ negotiable

general manager

To build upon the Company's strong position in automotive diagnostics and to steer it into new markets for its range of sophisticated measuring and test equipment.

Candidates must be technical graduates with at least ten years in electronics instrumentation and offer experience of managing all aspects of a company designing, manufacturing and selling technical products.

engineering manager

To manage the engineering activity, assess feasibility of new products, plan and allocate resources and provide pre and post sales technical support.

Candidates must be technical graduates with experience of managing all aspects of the development of software related products, and have a track record in resourcing and managing diverse projects against demanding timescales.

pkS

Please send full CV and salary expectations to PK Selection, Russell Chambers,
Covent Garden, London WC2E 8AA.

PK SELECTION
International Search & Selection



Price Waterhouse

EXECUTIVE SELECTION

Information Technology Director

c.£40,000 pa + car and benefits

Croydon

Surridge Dawson is one of the largest players in the wholesaling and marketing of newspapers and periodicals in the UK, and has a turnover in excess of £225m. They have an impressive network of branches providing services to over 6,000 retailers.

Significant investment has been made to provide effective computer systems and this new post of I.T. Director, reporting directly to the Managing Director, will have responsibility for all computing facilities. Supported by a small team, you will ensure that computing meets the strategic and operational needs of the business.

Formulating and gaining agreement on an IT strategy, providing a link between operational management and technical IT specialists, and the satisfaction of client/publisher objectives, will be the key tasks.

Applicants must be experienced managers of a computing facility which provides a distributed network of services to a commercially aware concern. You will need to have strategic planning capabilities combined with technical 'hands on' experience of systems development. Drive, enthusiasm and commitment will be needed to gain the respect and support of line management in

introducing new technology. Familiarity of DEC hardware, EPOS, 4GLs and WANs in a sales driven distribution environment will be a distinct asset.

The salary and benefits package reflect the importance attached to this key role in this commercial and developing enterprise.

Please contact Barrie Whitaker, sending a full CV with salary details and quoting ref B/1274/ST to:
Executive Selection
Price Waterhouse
Management Consultants
Milton Gate
1 Moor Lane
London EC2Y 9PB

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Construction

Change Management

For a regional business within a long established and profitable UK construction Group with a solid reputation in both civils and building work, and a clear view of where they want to be in the future.

The need is for someone with strong leadership skills who can strengthen, weld and motivate the management team, bring strategic direction to the business, identify opportunities and exploit the potential in their people and the market.

Candidates will be experienced civils/building executives, probably qualified, but certainly with a successful record of control and profit responsibility with also the ability to contribute at UK management board level.

Turnover is around £25m per annum; location is in the South West Midlands; remuneration indicator is £45,000, but need not be a barrier to application.

CRESCENT
Management
Selection

Please apply to Paul Blake with career and salary details, quoting ref no 0601 at Crescent Management Selection, The Crescent, King Street, Leicester LE1 6RX.

whiteheadselection

Sales and Marketing Director

East Midlands

To £40,000, bonus, car, benefits

This well established c. 200 employee private manufacturing company is a supplier to many 'blue chip' food producers, most of whom are household names.

As part of their exciting development plans they now have an opportunity for a leading professional to be responsible to the Managing Director for the company's complete sales and marketing function.

A graduate aged 28-42, you must have a sound understanding of working in partnership with the marketing, technical and new product development functions of major food manufacturers, with a proven record of success in identifying client needs, matching them to the company's capabilities and winning sales. You are also likely to come from within a food ingredients, packaging, packaging design or other innovative organisation servicing the food industry. Leadership, motivational skills, presence, drive, and general commercial acumen are all prerequisites.

The competitive package includes a performance related bonus scheme, pension and relocation assistance where necessary.

Please write enclosing CV, quoting reference 3551, to James Thorne, Whitehead Selection Ltd, 43 Welbeck Street, London W1M 7HF

A Whitehead Mann Group PLC Company.

whiteheadselection

HIGH-LEVEL SALES AND MARKETING ROLES IN A MAJOR NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS

Glasgow
c.£45,000 + attractive bonus
+ car

This is a unique opportunity to join a major UK company in an exciting new development. The company wishes to broaden the range of services it offers to existing customers by the addition of telecommunications services. To do this it now wishes to expand the core team to include these key positions.

As a member of this management team, you will have significant input into strategy and policy from the earliest stages. Reporting to the General Manager of the new telecommunications business, you will develop a product portfolio that is uniquely designed to meet the needs of customers, integrating all aspects of service delivery to the highest quality standards.

To succeed in one of these highly challenging and rewarding roles, you will need to combine substantial experience with energy and enthusiasm.

Sales Manager

The company is seeking a true professional whose first priority will be to initiate a sales process suited to the industry and the competitive environment in which it operates. You will develop sales plans and targets, ensure sales revenue targets are met, manage the sales team and personally control major accounts.

Of graduate calibre, you should have at least 2-3 years' sales management experience in a large-scale

telecommunications or IT organisation. A knowledge of customer buying policies and industry competitors is essential, as is the ability to control complex sales up to board level. Ref: G2093/ST.

Marketing Manager

In this exciting start-up venture you will manage the marketing plan through its first few crucial years, working closely with the General Manager to develop and implement the business strategy. You will exploit your knowledge of the UK telecoms industry to identify trends and new business opportunities.

A graduate with business or marketing qualifications, your 10-15 years' experience will have been gained within a significant service industry. While sector experience would be an advantage, a record of success in a start-up environment is equally important. Ref: G2094/ST.

Both roles will appeal to self-motivated individuals who possess excellent entrepreneurial and management skills.

Although salaries are as indicated this should not be seen as a barrier to attracting the highest-calibre individuals. Benefits are those you would expect from a progressive organisation and include relocation assistance to the Glasgow area where appropriate.

Please send full cv, which will be forwarded to our client, quoting the appropriate reference, to Steve Higgins, PA Consulting Group, Advertising and Communications, 2 Blythswood Square, Glasgow G2 4AD. Tel: 041-221 3954.

PA Consulting Group

Creating Business Advantage

Executive Recruitment • Human Resource Consultancy • Advertising and Communications

BBC ENTERPRISES

BBC Enterprises International

BBC Enterprises International is a new Division which will combine the present activities of the Programme Sales and Co-productions Divisions and will be responsible for all Enterprises multimedia activities world-wide. We are now looking for two senior executives who will play a key role in leading Enterprises International's business, and who will form part of the core senior management team reporting directly to Director, Enterprises International.

Marketing & Business Development Director

Your key function will be to determine investment marketing and commercial development strategies for BBC programming. You will be responsible for determining and carrying out the most effective marketing and funding strategies for all key programming requiring external pre-production finance, whether through co-productions, pre-sales or Enterprises investments, across the full range of BBC output. You will lead a strong team of Enterprises Business Development and Marketing Executives working with individual programme departments; control common and consistent policies for all negotiations with third party broadcasters and distributors, and ensure that the necessary rights clearances, contracts, and delivery of materials are completed to plan for invested or co-produced programmes. As a key member of the Enterprises International Investment Committee you will be responsible for recommending all programme investments and monitoring returns against these. You will develop new, and strengthen existing, relationships with UK and International Independents, and with International broadcasters and multimedia companies.

You will have a fully developed knowledge of marketing and business affairs in the international television production and distribution marketplace, with substantial negotiating skills and a thorough understanding of the common structures for co-productions, pre-sales and territory, revenue and rights splits. You will have considerable experience of motivating and of running a strong management team, and the ability to work closely with both television production and commercial personnel.

Salary negotiable £40,000 - £55,000 p.a.

(Ref. 10473/SM)

European Director

As European Director your key role will be to develop and maximise Enterprises total business in Europe. One of your first responsibilities will be to investigate the potential of establishing further Enterprises multimedia offices in European countries, following on from our French office; and where necessary, setting up management and control systems for these offices. You will be responsible for coordinating, all marketing and sales plans for Enterprises products in Europe; for developing, motivating and managing the European Sales team and for ensuring appropriate support systems are in place to service our European clients. You will seek out and build relationships between BBC production departments and European broadcasters and distributors and seek to create partnerships with major European media companies.

You will have an extensive knowledge of the European television and multimedia marketplace and the key players in it; considerable experience of television distribution and co-production, excellent negotiating skills and the ability to communicate strategy effectively to both production and commercial personnel.

We are looking for someone able to speak at least one European language other than English, preferably more; the post is not restricted to British citizens but the postholder must possess or be able to obtain a work permit and be able to work in the UK.

Salary negotiable £40,000 - £55,000 p.a.

(Ref. 10474/SM)

Based West London.
For an application form contact (quote appropriate ref) Carolyn Hodson, BBC Enterprises, Room A3078, 80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT.

Application forms to be returned by July 31st.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

CAPITAL PROJECTS MANAGEMENT

Based Worthing, W. Sussex
Package to £40,000 + car

SmithKline Beecham is one of the foremost transnational pharmaceuticals and healthcare companies with a diverse business profile including the research and development, manufacture and marketing of pharmaceutical products. It is a company strongly committed to excellence and innovation in all of its activities.

The Central Engineering Services function for the region covering Europe and beyond is based at its site in Worthing, Sussex. This provides engineering and construction project support for the corporation's wide-ranging major capital programme covering the full spectrum of research and development, commercial/administration, chemical and pharmaceutical production facilities.

Continuing development means that an experienced Projects Manager is now required with a strong building/building services background gained within

the healthcare industry. Educated to degree level and ideally professionally qualified, you should possess a proven track record in capital projects management. Specific experience in pharmaceutical research and development or secondary production facilities would also be highly advantageous.

Your extensive knowledge of the underlying technical requirements, design processes and contract strategies will be complemented by a high level of credibility and strong interpersonal and communication skills. A second European language would be an advantage together with a mature and broad management approach.

The salary is accompanied by an excellent benefits package which includes a company car, annual bonus, pension, private medical plan, share-matching scheme and relocation assistance where appropriate.

To apply for this high-profile project management role, please send full career details to Peter Bedford, Ref: 5342/PB/ST, PA Consulting Group, 123 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SR.

PA Consulting Group

Creating Business Advantage

Executive Recruitment • Human Resource Consultancy • Advertising and Communications

MARKET DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

South West base
c.£25,000 OTE £40,000 + car

Backed by the resources of a major group, our client has established a solid platform from which to develop its position as a world leading manufacturer and supplier of premium quality products - marketed under a brand leading name to niche retail outlets.

With a new management team in place and maintaining market share in difficult trading conditions, the Board has agreed this key new appointment to maximise product and market potential.

Reporting directly to the Managing Director, your initial responsibility will focus on three areas: sustaining and building on the company's dominant position in the UK market place; researching, analysing, initiating and developing product range variations and markets; and to drive the company's performance in Europe, currently accounting for one fifth of sales. A critical area will be

the professional analysis and evaluation of marketing trends, sales forecasting, and motivating sales teams to increase margins.

Probably aged in your 30s with a post-graduate Marketing or Business qualification, your career to date will almost certainly have included premium brand management and development in an international retailing environment. Computer literacy is vital, with the ability to interpret management information that impacts directly on the business, in conjunction with managing the sales and distribution network to achieve objectives. A second European language would be a major advantage.

The position carries a generous bonus to attract performance-related achievers, for whom long-term group-wide prospects are first class. Please forward comprehensive cv, indicating current remuneration, to Philip Guy, Ref: 5419/PG/ST, PA Consulting Group, 6 Highfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3DJ.

PA Consulting Group

Creating Business Advantage

Executive Recruitment • Human Resource Consultancy • Advertising and Communications

DIRECTOR OF SALES TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

c. £35K + Excellent Bonus + Car + Major Company Benefits

This growing and dynamic company, part of a highly successful group, has made a rare and firm commitment to the training and development of its substantial salesforce.

Reporting to the Sales Director, you will have considerable input into the strategic issues relating to both Systems and Business Development, as well as total responsibility for the development and implementation of the sales training plan, through the activities of a dedicated training team.

Aged 28-40, educated to degree level, with a minimum of 3 years sales management experience, as well as exposure at National Account level, you must be able to demonstrate an excellent track record of

success in sales management training gained within the FMCG market place.

Your exceptional presentation skills, analytical and creative abilities and commercial awareness will be tested to their limits in a role which gives you the freedom to create as well as the power to achieve.

As a high profile key member of the Senior Management Team, success will enable you to develop your career within this progressive organisation.

To apply, please send a detailed CV to Mike Penny or Chris Stainton, Highfield International, 6 Sheepscot Court, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS7 2BB. Telephone: 0532 420999, Fax: 0532 421989.



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SENIOR EXECUTIVES

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There IS a job out there for you.

That's where we come in. We know a lot about recessions. We're a group of specialist career management consultants who have been providing personally tailored programmes to senior executives for over 40 years. We've helped through times good and bad and have learned that good people are always hard to come by - no matter what the economic climate. Understanding that fact is the first step to achieving success. The unadvertised job market continues rich with opportunity. If you want to 'tap in' and find that job, we'll help by guiding you in the right direction. We're experts. Call now for an appointment without obligation, or send your CV (24 hour answerphone in all offices). We abide by the IPM Code of Ethics.

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WITHIN MANUFACTURING, YOU'RE THE IDEAS BEHIND THE PROCESS

Manufacturing Consultancy

to £70,000 package

London/Manchester

Andersen Consulting is one of the world's largest business and technology consultancies, providing strategic answers for major "blue-chip" clients and giving them competitive business advantage now and well into the future.

Our Manufacturing Operations Division continues to expand across the aerospace, industrial, automotive and consumer products sectors with a reputation for achieving substantial and sustainable benefits for clients.

We are seeking to recruit graduates with 4 to 7 years industrial or consultancy experience, ideally gained within Manufacturing Operations, Procurement or Engineering.

You will become a key member of a multi-disciplinary team whose activities range from strategic reviews to building new facilities. Your ideas will influence the decisions which enable the achievement of change, growth and business success.

We, in return, will develop and enhance your skills to their full potential, preparing you for Partnership in your early 30's.

If you seek to develop your ideas within the challenging environment of manufacturing consultancy, please send your curriculum vitae to David Macdonald, Andersen Consulting, 2 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3LT.

Metamorphosis in a world of change.

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ELECTRICITY SALES MANAGER

c £40,000 + bonus + car
Maidenhead

Do you have the energy
to lead a powerful sales drive?

Serving 2.5 million customers, and with a turnover of over £1.7 billion, Southern Electric is one of the largest businesses in the South of England.

With a huge local market, it's also an exciting business with real potential - good news if you're a sales professional with the energy to match our own.

This is a unique opportunity with prime responsibility to ensure that we achieve profitable growth. Your role will encompass Energy and Contract sales within our region, working closely with Divisional based sales staff to motivate them and ensure the achievement of their sales targets.

To meet this challenging brief, we are looking for someone with a proven track record in sales management plus a thorough knowledge of the electricity market. Experience of electroheat technology would be an advantage. You will also need to demonstrate the ability to motivate and manage sales staff and produce results within budget and time constraints in this competitive environment.

Alongside the salary indicated your package will include bonus scheme, car and comprehensive relocation assistance if necessary.

To apply send your CV to David Burke, Managing Consultant, Townsend Knight, Kighway House, London Road, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5AQ. Please quote reference YS981.

An Equal Opportunity Employer.

**SOUTHERN
ELECTRIC**

Wrong job -Redundant? Neither means being out of the running

We are a team of career professionals who care about your future, whether you are employed or not. Finding the right job is all about confidence, aptitude and contacts. Our expertise is comprehensive and individually tailored to meet your needs, goals and the right position - often within the unadvertised market.

McKenzie Waterman & Co., St. Alphege House, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DA



Call Wilson McKenzie on 071 920 0480 to arrange an initial meeting; for Merseyside call 051 236 5560, Manchester 061 834 2189 and Midlands 0788 546107.

**McKenzie
Waterman**

AN OPPORTUNITY IN TELEPHONE SALES

A leading national newspaper is looking for full time Telephone Salespeople to work in its busy Classified Advertising Department. (Hours include some Saturdays 9-1pm). Previous telephone sales experience an advantage along with good spelling, basic typing and good communication skills but full training will be given.

If you think you can work in this lively, fast moving environment then please reply to

TELEPHONE 071 782 7993

DIRECTORS/MANAGERS

UNEMPLOYED; EX. PAT. CAREER RUT; RECESSION HIT
You need a new position.

With hundreds of applicants applying for each advertised position, how can an individual compete in the marketplace? Fletcher Hunt are not an agency, but a specialist team established to help individuals seeking fast career change to find the right position quickly and professionally, normally within the unadvertised market. Consultancy is sometimes available to our unemployed clients.

Phone Richard Holman on 071-436 8886

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Fletcher Hunt plc.
CAREER CONSULTANTS

59 Devonshire Street, London W1N 1LT

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER (SUPPLIES)

Pan Graphics is one of the leading Companies operating in the printing equipment, supplies and reprographic materials market. We require a highly motivated individual to manage and develop our existing sales force and take sales operation in London and South East Region. The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate a track record in motivating and organising a large sales team. Experience within the printing supplies and reprographic materials market is not essential. OTE £35k plus company car. Please write enclosing c.v. to

J.P. Hamilton,
Pan Graphics Industries Ltd.,
Rotaprint House, East Lane,
Wexley, Midea HA8 7PS.

PAN GRAPHICS

London

c.£30,000 + Bonus + Car

Pricing Analysts

Apply your business acumen to the challenge
of international telecommunications

This is a superb opportunity to join one of the fastest growing telecommunications outsourcing organisations, providing global data, image and voice networks to major multinationals. Headquartered in the US, our client is expanding across Europe and now requires two key individuals to join their London operation.

As part of a high calibre team, you will be responsible for the interpretation and analysis of financial, commercial and economic data to provide innovative and competitive pricing strategies in response to requests to tender. You will be a key member of the bid team and your subsequent recommendations will be instrumental in ensuring the successful introduction of new business.

To succeed in this high profile role, you will

possess a strong academic record including a business or marketing related degree and ideally an MBA. You will have at least four years' industry experience gained in a financial analysis, marketing and/or business development role with a telecoms/computing service provider, management consultancy or large IT user.

The excellent salary package reflects the importance of the role and includes a company car plus a comprehensive range of benefits.

If you have the rare combination of excellent interpersonal and business skills coupled with the ambition to succeed in this high growth market sector, please contact Goodman Graham & Associates, advising consultants, at the address below, quoting reference 4501.

**GOODMAN GRAHAM
AND ASSOCIATES**

8 Beaumont Gate, Shenley Hill, Radlett, Herts WD7 7AR.
Telephone: 0923 855515, Fax: 0923 854791

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

A voice FOR THE FUTURE

Northern Telecom is one of the world's leading developers and suppliers of fully digital telecommunications equipment and solutions. In the UK, our Meridian and T1 ranges form the backbone of the private switching capability, we provide to our customers.

**HOME COUNTIES NORTH
SERVICE ASSURANCE MANAGERS**
£26-£36,000 + CAR + BENEFITS

The importance of these appointments is reflected in the fact that they report directly to NT's Director of Quality and Service.

Taking a highly proactive and autonomous stance, you'll work closely with one of our leading customers at a senior management and technical level with the prime aim of continuously improving the performance of our products and services. You'll also be responsible for delivering a high level of service support to the customer, in a way that integrates effectively with their own performance and management goals.

With the ability to prepare and implement business plans - taking a long term strategic view on the technical and commercial evolution of the sector - your confident management style must be allied to a detailed understanding of the customer issues in the areas of QA, product management and product development.

With a degree/HND in Electrical/Electronic Engineering applicants should have a proven background in the telecommunications industry, spanning experience of Field Operations and Applications, QA, Project Management and Communications.

To apply, please send a full cv, with home, work telephone numbers, to our recruitment consultants, UJ Associates, 12 Celbridge Mews, Porchester Road, London W2 6EU, quoting reference no. 07, 308. Tel: 071-243 1888 Fax: 071-792 9016

**nt northern
telecom**

Career Evaluation

Allied Dunbar Assurance plc have branches throughout the South East and are looking for intelligent and professionally minded people between 25 and 50 to market their range of financial services.

If you have ever wondered whether a career in sales or marketing would suit you, this is your opportunity to find out. We would like to invite you to attend a meeting to be held shortly which would discuss and explain the opportunities available within the Group and also - most importantly - offer a COMPREHENSIVE ALTERNATIVE CAREER EVALUATION exercise.

We have for many years prided ourselves in our ability to select talent from outside the financial services industry and to develop very successful Financial Planning Consultants from those who have had no experience of sales in the past. Please write with a brief cv to Emma Brown, Allied Dunbar, 1st Floor, Clockhouse Court, 5-7 London Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 1AA or call 0727 836511

Opportunities exist in the following locations: Borehamwood, Central London, Crawley, Essex, East Midlands, Birmingham, St Albans, Watford, Woking, N.W. London and other locations nationwide

Allied Dunbar Assurance plc is an Equal Opportunities Group

**ALLIED
DUNBAR**

General Manager - Consultancy

Northern Office Newcastle upon Tyne
c£35 - £38k + Car + Profit Share + W.P.A.

Anticipated future growth of this Retail and Leisure Consultancy, particularly within the European marketplace, has created the need for a General Manager who can contribute towards their growth and expansion.

This consultancy specialises in a "Hands-on" approach to strategic marketing solutions and project implementation. Your role will not only involve the management of Project Teams, but you will also be responsible for creative and strategic input, client presentation and account development.

Ideally you will be a graduate who speaks one or more European languages; have a minimum of 3 years experience within a consultancy, and have a background in Retail and/or Leisure. The demands are very challenging and the successful candidate will need both drive and ambition to succeed in a competitive environment.

Please call Celeste Cowman today on 081-543 7121 (between 4pm and 8pm only) or Post/Fax your resume to her at Spectrum Specialist Marketing/Recruitment.

SPECTRUM
SPECIALIST MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS RECRUITMENT

CAPITAL HOUSE, 20-22 CRAVEN ROAD, LONDON W2 3PR. TELEPHONE: 071-724 0211 FAX: 071-724 9322

Pera International is one of Europe's largest and most successful business and technology centres, providing help and advice to companies in all sectors of industry.

The last five years have seen a substantial growth in the size and scope of our business, and we now wish to recruit experienced senior professionals to develop our business further in the following areas:

TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT
You should be able to demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively at all levels and have experience of implementing Total Quality programmes in a range of industrial sectors.

HUMAN RESOURCES
You should have a substantial record of achievement as a Consultant advising businesses on people and organisational matters.

(These positions are based at our Management Centre in the South West).

TRAINING
You should have several years' experience of running a successful training business and have a proven track record of new course development.

ADVANCED MATERIALS APPLICATIONS
You will need to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the application of modern materials to industrial products and processes, coupled with several years' consulting experience.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY
You will need to have a broad background in the application of advanced techniques, preferably in a range of industrial sectors.

(These positions are based at our Technology Centre in the East Midlands).

Business Managers

South West & East Midlands

Pera International

FOR AMBITIOUS TELECOMS SPECIALISTS, MOVING TO EUROPE DOESN'T MEAN CROSSING THE CHANNEL.

Central London MAJOR ACCOUNT MANAGER

To £32k basic, £44k OTE + car

Ideally in your 30s, and educated to degree level, you will have a proven track record in selling telecoms or other high technology solutions or products in an international environment. You will be responsible for developing business within a portfolio of the company's major accounts.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

To £25k basic, £30k OTE + car

Ideally a graduate with several years' experience in high technology sales. This is an opportunity to play a major part in a first class team selling international telecoms services.

The ability to speak French would be a major advantage in all roles. Other European languages would be a plus. In every case the company offers an excellent range of benefits and good prospects for career progression.

Find out full details by posting your cv, today, to Ian Bennett, Kramer Westfield 1st Base, Recruitment Consultants, Garden House, London Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire SL5 0LL. Fax (0344) 874877.

KRAMER WESTFIELD
1st BASE

Since our client arrived in Britain seven years ago, you no longer have to cast envious glances at your continental cousins. The company's London office is well-established and plans to double its size by the end of next year. This means that all the advantages of a major operator's reputation, resources and business prospects are now open to you here.

The company has the most extensive and diversified corporate product range on the market and its outstandingly successful development programme has given it the edge in many areas of international telecommunications.

GLOBAL DRINKS MARKETING OPPORTUNITY FOR "TOP FLIGHT" STRATEGIC, BRAND MARKETEER

Age: 28-35

Based: West London

Pernod Ricard with its portfolio of internationally acclaimed brands including - Pernod, Ricard, Dubonnet, Jameson and Black Bush Irish Whiskeys, Aberlour Malt Whisky, Wild Turkey Bourbon, Bisquit Cognac, Alexis Lichine and Orlando wines - is Europe's largest and the world's third largest wines and spirits group.

Committed to further enhancing its global position the group wish to recruit a senior marketing executive who will be responsible and accountable for developing strategy together with brand specific premium product/packaging initiatives targeted at the highly prestigious worldwide Duty Free and premium gift markets.

Ideal candidates will be graduates, have a minimum of 5 years' classical "blue chip" marketing experience that includes some sales negotiating/retail account handling, have a proven track record championing premium, heavily packaged FMCG brands that require on-going product/packaging initiatives; and are able to demonstrate vision, pragmatism and outstanding commercial and interpersonal skills.

It is essential that all candidates are conversant in French, good team leaders/members and able to demonstrate the potential and commitment to progress within the Pernod Ricard Group.

Please Post/Fax your CV, quoting reference RB-46/T, to Vincent O'Hagan at VIP Management Consultants, Birch Cottage, Ridgeway Chase, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7JD. Tel: 0432-268296, Fax: 0432-268299.



Groupe
Pernod Ricard

VIP
MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANTS

An excellent opportunity for a Business Director of outstanding ability to grow a Professional Services Group. The focus will be to drive forward the end user services business of a world leader in Open Systems based distributed computing and connectivity. The role combines high level sales and management of the people and delivery process. Your experience of creating and developing business opportunities with significant end user clients and delivering quality and cost effective solutions will be a major factor in ensuring the growth of the UK company.

Director - Professional Services

- ❑ Aggressive salary
- ❑ Significant benefits including bonus
- ❑ Attractive stock options
- ❑ Quality executive car
- ❑ Location Herts



Tel. 071 637 9611

The Company

The largest independent developer and provider of Open Systems based distributed computing technology and services. Offering a broad range of custom development services to OEMs, systems integrators and larger end users. Profitable and well funded. Rapidly growing international market presence by a combination of acquisition and organic growth. High profile entrepreneurial culture. Committed to quality.

The Position

Responsible for defining the target marketplace and developing a successful and profitable professional services group, reporting to European MD. Lead sales and account development to achieve revenue, profit and market share. Manage team of technical consultants. Negotiate contracts/bids, value up to £2m. Oversee preparation and presentation of proposals. Manage implementation and process. Forecast business and monitor customer accounts.

Qualifications

Demonstrable success and track record in complex sales and account development in a professional services organisation, preferably in Open Systems software or related areas.

Aged 35-45, graduate, international experience and strong man management skills.

Awareness of Open Systems market trends and technologies.

Ambitious and tenacious, a desire to make it happen, driven by quality of results, team player.

We need a top flight professional, therefore package will not be an obstacle.

Please reply, enclosing full details to Karen Whelan, quoting Ref. KW/2625, to Management & Executive Selection, 2nd Floor, Albany House, 324 Regent Street, London W1R 5AA.

HUB CENTRE MANAGER

Our Investment - Your Opportunity

£27,500 pa + Car

Lynx is already the market leader in network distribution. Our recent £4m investment in a Hub Centre at Nuneaton is further evidence of our determination to stay well ahead of the competition. It is here that we are looking for a Hub Manager of exceptional ability to run the centre and its 300 staff handling around 90,000 packages daily.

Previous experience in managing a large central sortation system is essential, coupled with proven skills in industrial and mechanical engineering. Equally important is the ability to manage people in a highly constructive manner, thus ensuring the Hub Centre works to its maximum potential.

In everything we do, quality is the key mission, and we are looking for a like minded dedicated professional who will make a major contribution to the continued success of Lynx.

In return you can expect an excellent salary and benefits package, including relocation, coupled with career opportunities to match the highest aspirations.

In the first instance please write enclosing CV to: Mr. Paul Cook, Personnel Director, Lynx, Fountain House, Great Cornbow, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3BS

LYNX

Express Delivery Network.

CUSTOMER SYSTEMS MANAGER

As one of the country's foremost National Wholesalers of Office Equipment and Stationery, we have invested heavily in sophisticated computer systems. With 11,500 product lines and c 3,000 customers to serve on a same day or next day basis, our bespoke customer information and order processing systems are playing an increasingly important role in ensuring that we meet our stringent sales and service level targets.

In order to further increase our business via our bespoke customer systems, we are looking for an individual with a successful track record of selling remote ordering systems within a distribution environment, plus a high level of technical competence and sufficient general business acumen to amend our systems to meet individual customer requirements. In addition, specific experience of operating SFD software systems would be highly advantageous.

In return, we offer a competitive basic salary, plus incentive scheme, and a generous benefit package commensurate with the responsibilities with this role.

If you believe you have the skills and experience we are looking for and can make a significant contribution to our business, please send a copy of your CV, quoting your current remuneration, to:

Alan Miller, Personnel Director, Neville & Gladstone Limited, 86-90 New Barnet Road, New Barnet, Hertsfordshire, EN4 8RQ



SYSTEMS CONSULTANTS - FINANCIAL / DISTRIBUTION / MANUFACTURING

Package: Negotiable - Car

BTC markets the world renowned "World Systems" suite of integrated software applications from ID Edwards & Co. While technical experience is not a pre-requisite, the people we seek understand systems implementation in blue chip companies. You will have good presentation skills, the flair to think on your feet and the ability to support our Birmingham and London offices as part of a growing team. Experience of multi-country transactional processing would be an advantage.

❖ Financial Consultants must be Qualified Accountants and have 5+ years large company experience.

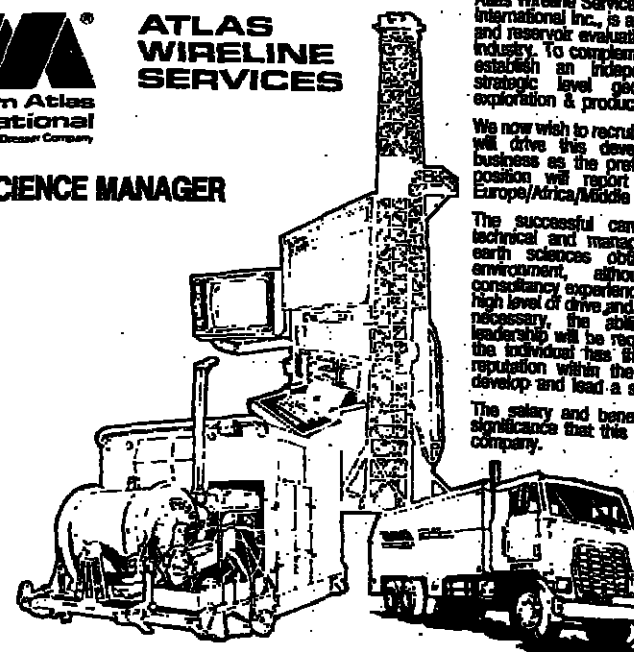
❖ Distribution / Manufacturing Consultants need 5+ years shop floor experience and a broad understanding of MRP, MPS and SOP issues.

If you are interested in being part of a dynamic team, send a brief resume to: Mary Campbell, Managing Consultant, Business Technology Consultants Ltd, Masons House, 1-3 Valley Drive, Kingsbury, London NW9 9NG. Tel: 081-206 1665 Fax: 081-204 9782



ATLAS WIRELINE SERVICES

GEOSCIENCE MANAGER



Atlas Wireline Services, a division of Western Atlas International Inc., is a leading supplier of formation and reservoir evaluation services to the petroleum industry. To complement existing business we will establish an independent bureau to provide strategic level geoscience support to the exploration & production sector.

We now wish to recruit a Geoscience Manager who will drive the development and establish the business as the preferred industry supplier. The position will report to the General Manager, Europe/Africa/Middle East, based in London.

The successful candidate will have a broad technical and managerial experience within the earth sciences obtained in an oil company environment, preferably within a service sector, a high level of drive and motivation to succeed will be required and it is essential that the individual has the respected entrepreneurial reputation within the industry to enable him to develop and lead a successful commercial unit.

The salary and benefits package will reflect the significance that this position will have within the company.

Applicants should write, enclosing a detailed C.V. to:- The Personnel Manager, Atlas Wireline services 465 Isleworth Road, Middlesex TW7 5AB Tel. 081 568 3180

مكتبة من الامم

Consultants

Pera International is one of Europe's largest and most successful business and technology centres, providing help and advice to companies in all sectors of industry.

The last five years have seen a substantial growth in the size and scope of our business, and to continue this trend we are now looking for experienced Management Consultants to join the successful teams based at our offices in the South West and Glasgow.

Total Quality Management

Human Resource Development

Strategic Marketing

Quality Systems

For each of these positions, your key tasks will be to generate new business opportunities and to carry out consultancy assignments for a wide range of clients.

To apply you must be educated to degree level with at least three years' consultancy experience. We are looking for exceptional individuals who can demonstrate the highest levels of achievement. In return we offer an excellent remuneration and benefits package.

Please write to Mike Thompson at our Head Office at 54 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JH. We will then ask you to complete an application form, so there is no need for you to submit a full CV with your original letter.

Please note: To be considered, your application form must reach us no later than Friday 24th July 1992.

South West & Glasgow

pera
International

Product Management

Worldwide Telecommunications Services

Few organisations have the necessary resources to match the unabated demand for Global Communication Services. With offices throughout the world and a global network carrying 30 billion messages annually, our client can justifiably claim to be one such organisation, supplying DP and telecommunications services to the world's air transport communities.

Appointments in several key areas are available to help our client maintain and enhance their strong telecommunications product range, thus carrying it into the next decade. The future competition demands strong marketing professionalism in open structure networking. You will be responsible for this.

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Saving brains from the drain

Scientists are looking for status and recognition, Anna Moore says

A lack of structured career paths for UK scientists is a main reason why some of our best brains are still being attracted by greater opportunities and professional fulfilment in the United States, says Dr Peter Brown, the principal scientist at British Bio-Technology Ltd, who returned to Britain 18 months ago after six years at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

"Although, in terms of the number of British scientists emigrating to the US, the brain drain may no longer be regarded as the threat it once was," he says, "we should ask which scientists we are keeping in the UK and which we are losing. I suspect that we are still losing the best."

This view is widely shared by academics, and, in particular by Dr John Mulvey, the executive secretary of the Save British Science Society, which, in a briefing document published earlier this year, revealed that, of the 40 new Fellows of the Royal Society elected every year, the proportion of those living abroad, especially in the US, has risen from 4 per cent in 1960-62 to 20 per cent in 1991.

Whether or not the US is actively headhunting in the UK, British science has an excellent reputation. The British system prepares scientists for laboratory work at a younger age than in the US, where a first degree involves far more general work. At the age of 24, a British PhD has already had three years of extensive laboratory experience, unlike his or her American counterpart.

"There will always be a demand for British PhDs in the US," says Dr Ian Collins, the managing director of Executive Scientist Appointments, a scientific recruitment consultancy. He is often approached by British scientists in the US who want to come home. "Sometimes the US attracts people who never come back. Others want to come back but cannot. That is where I come in," he says.

Money alone is not the

principal motivation. "In the academic world, funding is under as much pressure in the US as it is in Britain," Dr Brown says, "and in many areas of corporate science, salaries are not much higher. Really, it is about status and recognition, and in Britain there does not appear to be an obvious career pathway."

"The US addresses this problem more successfully than we do. There is more drive and energy. Science should be regarded as a profession and scientists rewarded for the long hours they have spent developing skills. Scientists should not have to move away from the laboratory bench into management in order to profit."

This is precisely the issue being tackled by Glaxo Group Research with the introduction of a new senior grading system that takes into account that until now scientists and other specialists have rarely been able to progress to the most senior and best-paid posts without taking on managerial tasks.

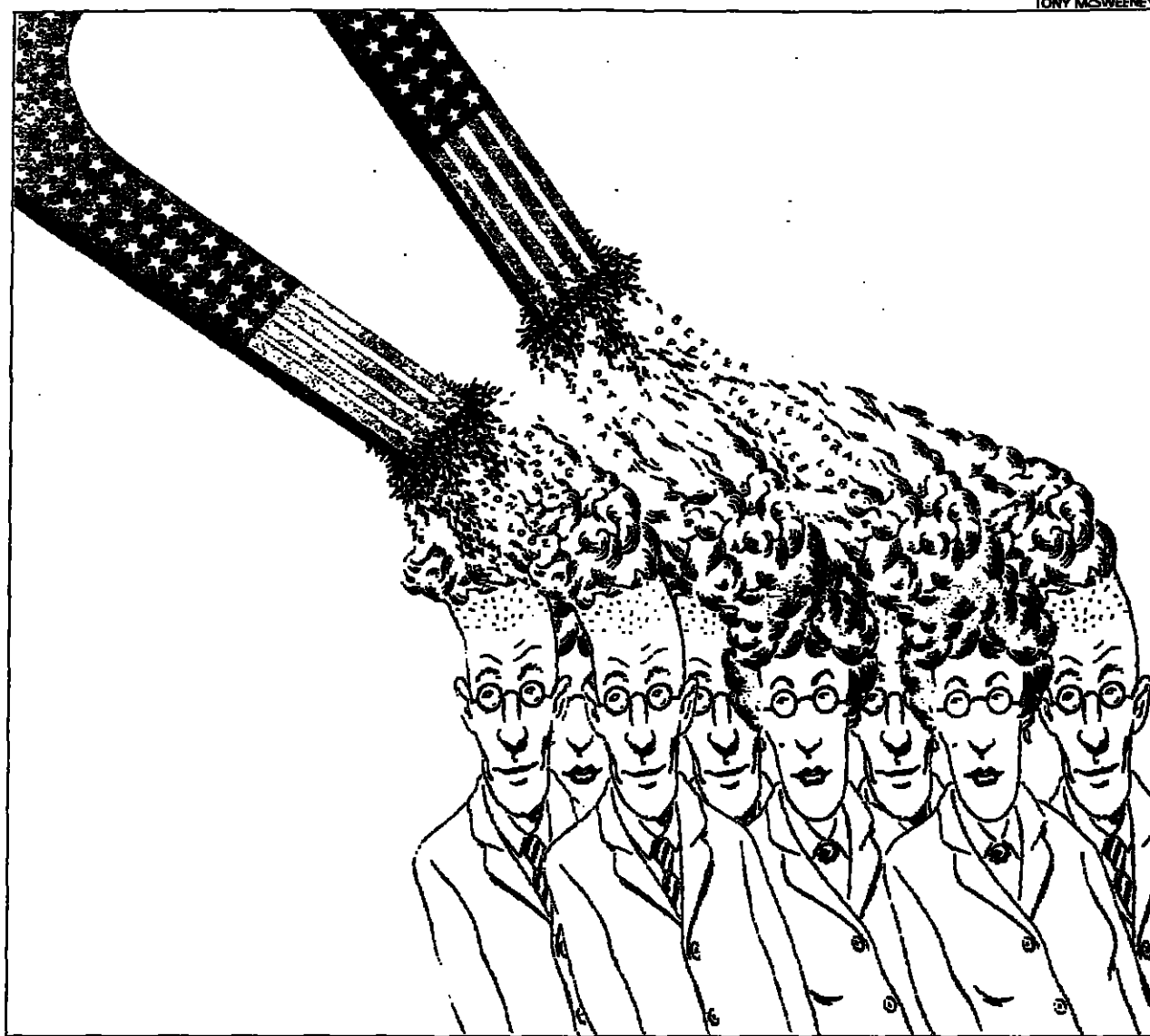
Now there are three ways to make progress — to become a manager, to continue as a scientist, or to become a specialist, for example, in information technology.

The new grading system, with set criteria for every grade, will enable Glaxo Group Research's top scientists to attain the income and status of senior executives, while continuing to do what they do best.

"We must have the most creative and innovative people discovering drugs," says Dr Richard Sykes, the group's chairman and chief executive. "Innovation as it relates to drug discovery and development is not a vocation. It is at the heart of our business."

"We live in a highly competitive society, and many traditional academics working in laboratories see that their ideas can be turned into money. So they leave their academic environments and start small biotech companies, many of which we see in the US."

The speed at which certain



scientific industries, such as pharmaceuticals, have grown during the past few decades

may have created the biggest professional challenge: how do you stop them bashing their heads on the ceiling?

Richard Pearson, the director of the Institute of Manpower Studies at Sussex University, agrees that frustration does prompt some top scientists to leave the UK, but says:

"Science is becoming an increasingly international activity and at the top end there is a growing international labour market. Not only are good scientists able to move around Europe and the US, they are also moving into the UK."

MOVING ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

THE greater academic freedom, wider sources of funding and better working standards tempted Dr Richard Dalby to move, permanently, to the United States, where he is the research assistant professor at the Medical College of Virginia.

After graduating from the Nottingham University school of pharmacy in 1983, Dr Dalby did his PhD in aerosol science at the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy, financing his

studies by working as a teaching and research assistant at the university.

He came home afterwards and spent a year with Fisons Pharmaceuticals, but despite his respect for the company, he thought that the US had more to offer.

Dr Dalby says: "The salary and living standards are much higher than in the UK, there are more sources of funding for academic research and industrial funding is not frowned on as in

Britain. There is more academic freedom, too. So long as you raise enough funds to support your research, the university hierarchy will leave you to research what you want with minimal interference."

"Productivity is rewarded to a greater extent. In the UK, I had the feeling that one had to 'serve one's time', while in the States if you work hard, a lack of seniority is not necessarily a barrier to promotion."

LIFE AFTER REDUNDANCY

Hold out for a good wage

Finding a job is a question of market, so if the "goods" are hard to shift, should you mark the price down?

"Saying you are prepared to accept a significantly lower figure than your last package raises all kinds of doubts about you in the interviewer's mind," Stanley Hunt, of GHN, says. "It suggests that you are desperate, or that you will be off as soon as the job market improves."

Derek Edwards, the managing director of Sanders & Sidney, agrees, although he says there are circumstances in which settling for less than your previous earnings can be justified.

"Employers accept that people may set themselves different objectives at different points in their career, including financial ones," he adds. "For instance, you may want to make a change of career direction or move to a different part of the country where salary levels are lower but the quality of life is better, or to a smaller company that offers a new challenge."

However, like his colleagues in other companies, Mr Edwards worries about people taking too big a drop. "If you find you have no option, ask when the next salary review will be. That at least demonstrates that you have set your sights appropriately."

The big mistake, all career consultants say, is to raise the question of remuneration too early. In fact, if you can possibly help it, you should never initiate it yourself. "If you name a figure, that is the one you are stuck with," says Chris Trott, of Chusid Lander.

He quotes the case of an applicant who kept stalling whenever the interviewer quoted a salary and pointing to further features in his c.v. that showed his qualifications for the job in question. In the end, the sum he was offered was 50 per cent

higher than the figure first quoted.

That is an extreme example, but the principle of holding back from salary negotiations for as long as you can keep your nerve is correct.

"Keep talking about the job rather than the money," Mr Edwards says. "Once they have decided they want you, mention money." As a rule, remuneration levels are negotiable to 10 per cent above any advertised figure. Career consultants and outplacement agencies say many clients end up earning more money in their next job than they were getting before.

Mr Edwards says that this is because there is an incidental benefit to the outplacement process itself. "Clients get to know their strengths and weaknesses," he says. That is something people lose track of if they have spent a long time with one company, especially if it has had troubles, as is often the case with businesses that have had to make redundancies.

Mr Trott believes that the increasing variability of pay, with its emphasis on elements such as profit-related bonuses and target earnings that may be difficult to evaluate makes it advisable that people should concentrate on comparing base pay figures. Second, he suggests that you should never accept an offer until it is confirmed in writing.

As Sam Godwin once observed, verbal agreements are not worth the paper they are written on.

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● GHN, 16 Hanover Square, London W1R 6AJ (071-493 5239). Sanders & Sidney, Orion House, 5 Upper St Martin's Lane, London WC2H 9EA (071-413 0321). Chusid Lander, 35-37 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5AF (071-580 6771).

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(34225)



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Husband's share for trustee

In re Flint (a Bankrupt)
Before Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC
[Judgment July 3]
Where the court made an order under section 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 ordering the transfer of property by a person against whom a bankruptcy petition had been presented, that order was a disposition by the bankrupt and void under section 284 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division, dismissing the appeal of Brenda Flint from Judge Robert in Shrewsbury County Court who on December 10, 1991 had ordered that a transfer of property order made in *Crewe County Court* on July 18, 1990 was void as against the trustee in bankruptcy of Ronald Flint and that the house was held on trust for the trustee in equal shares.

Section 284 of the 1986 Act provides: "Where a person is adjudged bankrupt, any disposition of property made by that person in the period to which this

section applies [which by subsection (3) is the period between presentation of the petition and the vesting of the bankrupt's estate in his trustee in bankruptcy] is void except to the extent that it is or was made with the consent of the court or is or was subsequently ratified by the court."

Mr David Parry for Mrs Flint; Mr David Stockill for the trustee.

HIS LORDSHIP said that Mr and Mrs Flint had been married and had jointly owned the matrimonial home. In March 1990 they were divorced. On May 22, a bankruptcy petition was presented against Mr Flint.

On July 18, in the course of Mrs Flint's application for ancillary relief, a transfer of property order was made under section 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 by the court in *Crewe County Court* ordering Mr Flint to transfer all his interest in the house to Mrs Flint. On July 24, Mr Flint was adjudged bankrupt in Shrewsbury County Court.

then compulsory, and that in the case of a consent order any previous agreement between the parties was superseded, did not in any way prevent its being a disposition by the owner of the property in question, in the instant case, Mr Flint.

It followed, therefore, that once Mr Flint was adjudged bankrupt the disposition of Mr Flint's interest in the house became void unless subsequently ratified by the bankruptcy court, that is here, Shrewsbury County Court.

Section 284 was a new provision in personal insolvency and there did not yet appear to be reported cases offering guidelines for the exercise of the discretionary jurisdiction under the section. However, there was no evidence to suggest that Judge Roberts in exercising his discretion under the section had had regard to any improper considerations and the exercise of his discretion could therefore not be interfered with.

Accordingly Mrs Flint's appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Vizards for Robert De Coninck & Co, Crewe; George Green & Co, Cradley Heath.

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Flood no evidence of non-repair

Pritchard v Clwyd County Council and Another
Before Lord Justice Stocker and Lord Justice Beldam
[Judgment June 16]
Flood water collecting in a road following heavy rainfall was not of itself evidence of non-repair or lack of maintenance of the highway or sewers. The local authorities responsible for their upkeep could not on that evidence alone be held to be in breach of their common law duty of care nor as having failed to carry out their statutory duties and thus were not liable for injuries caused to a pedestrian who fell while crossing the flooded road.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the defendants, Clwyd County Council and Delwyn Borough Council, from the judgment of Mr Recorder Glynor Jones at Holywell County Court in May 1991 awarding the plaintiff, Mrs Patricia Pritchard, damages of £5,801.35 including interest for injuries caused from falling when crossing Lloyd Street, Flint.

Mr Timothy Trotman for the local authorities; Miss Tania Griffiths for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that on April 14, 1986 the plaintiff fell when crossing the street that was under three to nine inches of floodwater. There had been substantial rainfall earlier. She brought proceedings against the defendants, the local authorities who were responsible

respectively for maintaining the highway and the sewer carrier-drain lying under the road.

The judge, having found that there was no evidence that the gutters or road surface in Lloyd Street were in lack of repair or that the sewers were blocked, said that the depth of water that had collected called for an explanation by the defendants and in the absence of one he concluded that the plaintiff's claim based on the defendants' negligence succeeded.

The judge had not considered the statutory duties of the first defendant imposed by section 22 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 and sections 41 and 100 of the Highways Act 1980 nor the duty imposed on the second defendant by section 23 of the Public Health Act 1936.

The issue was whether the judge was entitled to hold that the mere collection of water after heavy

rainfall was a fact indicative of one or both of the defendants' failure to fulfil their obligations, whether those were obligations of statutory imposition or of a common law duty to take reasonable care.

In *Barnside v Emerson* (1968) 1 WLR 1490, 1494 Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, had said "occasional flooding at any time is not in itself evidence of a failure to maintain. We all know that in times of heavy rain our highways do from time to time get flooded. Leaves and debris and all sorts of things may be swept in and cause flooding for a time without any failure to repair."

On the basis of that statement of the law there was no evidence on which the judge could find that the collection of water was evidence of non-repair of the highway or breach of any statutory duty by the first defendants.

The doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur*

was a fact indicative of one or both of the defendants' failure to fulfil their obligations, whether those were obligations of statutory imposition or of a common law duty to take reasonable care.

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Power to halt proceedings

George Tan Soon Gin v Judge Cameron and Another
The manner in which the court should exercise its exceptional jurisdiction to halt criminal proceedings was correctly stated in *Attorney-General's Reference (No 1 of 1990)* (The Times April 15, 1992) 3 WLR 9, 18-19.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill and Lord Slynn of Hadley) so held on June 29, in dismissing an appeal by George Tan Soon Gin from Mr Justice Barnett (1991) 2 HKLR 400 in the High Court of Hong Kong who refused the appellant's application for judicial review of the decision of Judge Cameron, in the District Court on December 4, 1990, whereby he refused to stay criminal proceedings against the appellant.

Corrections

In *R v Knowles MBC, Ex parte Maguire* (The Times July 16) the solicitors for the council were Weightman Rutherford, Liverpool.

In *Auckland v PAVH (International) Ltd* (The Times June 19) the Act referred to was the Taxes Management Act 1970.

Letter did not create tenancy

Brent London Borough Council v O'Bryan and Others
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice McGowan and Lord Justice Beldam
[Judgment July 6]
A letter from a local authority education officer agreeing to the monthly letting of non-residential premises on terms to be laid down by valuers could not be construed as an agreement to grant to the occupier a monthly tenancy.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Brent London Borough Council from the decision on November 1, 1991, of Mr Assistant Recorder Morris at Wood Green County Court where he had dismissed Brent London Borough Council's claim for possession of a scout hut at 161 Willesden Lane and of adjoining premises at 163 against the occupier, Mrs Michelle O'Bryan.

Mr Terence Gallivan for the council; Mr Shane Dougal for the occupier.

LORD JUSTICE BELDAM said that the letter, addressed to the occupier but not indicating the premises it was referring to, stated that "the education committee agreed to the monthly letting of the premises to you on the terms laid down by the valuers". The recorder held that that amounted to an

agreement to grant a tenancy. How he reached that decision was difficult to understand. Having been referred during the trial to *Javed v Mohammed Aziz* (1991) 1 WLR 1007, 1013 he would have done well to have heeded the advice of Lord Justice Nicholas that "when one party permits another to enter or remain on his land on payment of a sum of money... there will be some consensual relationship between them. It may be no more than a licence determinable at any time, or a tenancy at will. But when and so long as such parties are in the throes of negotiating larger terms, caution must be exercised before inferring or imputing to the parties an intention to give to the occupant more than a very limited interest, be it licence or tenancy."

Interest rate swap lead actions

Statement: Interest Rate Swaps Litigation (No 2)
While it was accepted that the right of a plaintiff to have his case tried and not delayed indefinitely was an important consideration in working out a framework and timetable for the determination of multitudinous claims raising similar issues, the public interest in minimising costs where there was a possibility of unnecessary duplication carried equal weight.

Mr Justice Hirst so stated in the Queen's Bench Division on June 10 when settling in a statement in open court the order in which cases in the interest rate swap litigation would be selected and brought forward as lead cases for the trial of common issues on the application of a number of banks for their cases to be selected as lead actions.

appropriate to make a further order in the light of the failure of the previous order to produce a concluded judgment. There was no doubt that it was it would be unthinkable that such a large number of cases should go forward in disorganised fashion.

The most important requirement was to decide the restitution issue, not least because the decision on that point would constitute by far the most useful guideline for the general body of lead cases.

In the second group of actions, on the question of intermediation, third party proceedings should not be hived off separately.

The lead actions would be arranged in a group for the trial of the issue in three tiers to allow for the further settlement of claims before the trial and those actions in the second and third tier would be required to prepare their cases to the level of the exchange of witness statements to facilitate their swift progress to trial in the event of settlement of the lead actions.

Protection for small shops

Regina v Khan (Zeb)
Prime targets for attack by those seeking enrichment quickly were often small corner shops, small grocery stores and sub-post offices and it was important that the courts should indicate by sentences passed that attackers on them would go to prison for a long time.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Macpherson and Mr Justice Turner) so stated on June 11, on a reference by the Attorney-General under section 36 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, when increasing a jail sentence from three to five years passed at Birmingham Crown Court by Mr Recorder Pratt, QC, on pleas of guilty by Jahan Zeb Khan, aged 27, to counts charging theft, robbery and possession of an imitation firearm at a small grocery shop and threatening to kill the shopkeeper's son aged 15 and his mother, who were serving in the shop. He also pleaded guilty to possession of the imitation firearm when committing criminal damage to a police car chasing him and to assault.

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2 individuals aged 23-28, with sound academic background required. Experience not necessary but the ability to assimilate on a technical and conceptual level essential. Potential to progress to full partner with full profit participation in 2 to 3 years.

Call David Allard on 071 379 5895

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Do you decide how much you will earn this year? In our Westminster office our Managers earned between £35 - 75K. Could you join them?

Call Graham Wells on: 071 915 0470 (9am - 8pm)

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If you have a lively personality and communicate well at all levels with administrative skills to match contact

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Required for Chief Executive of property company based in Belgrave. Experience of executive level, together with Word Perfect 5.1 and Lotus 123 essential. Accounts experience also desirable.

Please send cv to The Guards Group, 40 Lowndes Street, London SW1X 9HX. Fax number 071 259 6173.

Strictly No Agencies

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SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

A small but prestigious International Property Investment and Management Company requires a Secretary/Receptionist for their London office in the heart of Mayfair. This position requires a mature and intelligent organised person, ideally aged between 40-50, to take responsibility for the everyday running of the reception and the filing. A good sound knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1 and Lotus 123 is required, but not essential. Fast accurate typing and attention to detail are a must, you will need to be confident, tidy with good presentation and be able to deal with answering the telephone, organising couriers, sending faxes, photocopying, filing and greeting our delighted clients, all of the same time! The receptionist is not a busy, and there is more emphasis on the secretarial side. We need someone to get totally involved in our expanding business, if you feel this could be you, please apply in writing enclosing your current CV and salary no later than 24th July to:

Jane Rosseter, Office Manager, Tishman West Management Ltd, Suite 2, Claridge House, 32 Davies Street, London W1T 1LG.

BOOKKEEPER

An experienced bookkeeper is required to work in the busy accounts department to assist with the day to day running of the accounts. You must be computer literate with a good working knowledge of spreadsheets and accounting systems. Please apply with your current CV and salary by 24th July to:

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I am looking for a first class working secretary with good experience and excellent office skills.

The job is based in our riverside Head Office in Hammersmith.

Benefits include:

- Salary £14,000
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Suitable applicants only will be acknowledged.

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Parsons Green, S.W.6.

Require a Practice Manager, previous medical experience not essential. The successful candidate will be confident in office and personnel management as well as undertaking secretarial/receptionist responsibilities.

Salary £17,500

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Accountant in Competition. A short notice position in a busy Italian restaurant. The successful candidate will be confident in office and personnel management as well as undertaking secretarial/receptionist responsibilities. Salary £17,500. Apply in writing + CV to: Dr H. McMichen, Basuto Medical Centre, 29 Basuto Road, SW6 4BJ.

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THE TIMES

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COMMISSION IN EUROPE
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1992/002
Notice is given that the
B.N.C. will receive bids for
the construction of a ship
SWIS 204, a second hand
choosing a supplier for
LAPAROSCOPIC TUBE
COLONY. The latest date for
submission of bids is 19
August 1992. The details of
the above information are
available at the Ministry of
the Navy, 101, Whitehall,
London SW1A 2JG. Tel: 011
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Totally equipped. 24 hour
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1st & 2nd floors. 2 beds, 1 bath.
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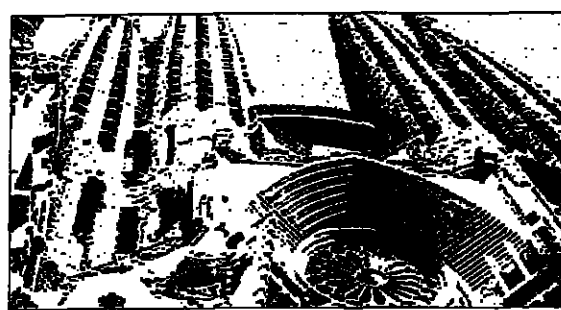
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BBC1

- 6.00 Ceefax (161622) 6.30 Breakfast News (50550158)
9.05 Bravestarm: Animation (7520061) 9.25 Now Then. What life was like for the children of the commander of the Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall (s) (8166988)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (4242993) 10.05 Playdays (s) (8463264) 10.30 Lassie. The canny canine saves a steer from its slobotic owner (7054790) 10.45 T.M.T. Showbiz magazine (s) (7059235)
11.00 News, regional news and weather (8925061) 11.05 The Flying Doctors (s) (Ceefax) (s) (7203429) 11.50 Cartoon (1210167)
12.00 News, regional news and weather (5269158) 12.05 Summer Scene presented by Linda Mitchell and Carol Keating (8014974)
12.55 Regional News and weather (70014837)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Ceefax) Weather (11500)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (1913790) 1.50 I Talk To The Animals. A profile of Samantha Khury who claims that she can communicate with animals and has a long list of testimonials from raccoons, trainers, zoo keepers and pet owners to back her story (7189264)
2.45 Film: East of Sumatra (1953) starring Jeff Chandler, Marilyn Maxwell and Anthony Quinn. Routine drama set on a Pacific island about a mining engineer having to mollify the local chief after an edict from the mine's head office antagonises him. Directed by Budd Boetticher (285590)
4.10 Babar. Cartoon adventures of an elephant family (2738177) 4.35 Uncle Jack and Operation Green. The final episode of the children's environmental comedy drama. Starring Paul Jones, Fenella Fielding and Vivian Vance (s). (Ceefax) (s) (5881061)
5.00 Newsround (545210) 5.10 Record Breakers presented by Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker (s). (Ceefax) (s) (8043827)
5.35 Neighbours (s). (Ceefax) (s) (354332). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Anna Ford. (Ceefax) Weather (s) (71)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (351). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Top of the Pops presented by Mark Franklin (s) (9239)
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (535)
8.00 Every Second Counts. Against-the-clock game show (1887)
8.30 Russ Abbott. Comedy sketches show. With Bella Emberg, Lisa Maxwell, Tom Bright and Sherrin Hewson (s). (Ceefax) (s) (13622)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (2036)
9.30 999. Michael Buerk continues his series on the unsung work of Britain's emergency services with reconstructions of the rescue of a man on a lift roof in an Edinburgh tower block and how two navy divers sent to save 40 men, women and children from a sinking ship off the Devon coast ended up having to be rescued themselves. (Ceefax) (s) (895351)



Saved by tourism: the Sagrada Família cathedral (10.20pm)

- 10.20 Omnibus Special: Barcelona with Robert Hughes.
● CHOICE: In this Omnibus special, it's not so much the shock of the new we get from Hughes as he guides us through the Olympic city. It's more the shock of the new Hughes. Barcelona was the cradle of Joan Miró, and in the Shock of the New, his 1980 history of modern art, Hughes expounded on the mutual indebtedness between painter and city. Yet, in tonight's film, Miró ("the best pure painter among the surrealists", wrote Hughes in 1980) rates hardly a mention. It's the gorgeous Palau de la Música that now fascinates Hughes, the heart-lifting workers' church of St. Maria del Mar, the cemetery with "the best sea views in Barcelona" (a nice touch of Hughes irony) and, of course, the unfinished Sagrada Família, which Hughes (more irony) notes is the first Christian cathedral in the West to be saved by Shinto tourism. (Ceefax) (388719)
11.10 Film: Promise (1986) starring James Gamet and James Woods. An award-winning drama about a fun-loving bachelor who is made to keep his long-forgotten promise to look after his schizophrenic brother after the death of their mother. Directed by Glenn Jordan (372429) 12.00am Weather (4886185). Ends at 12.55
2.15 BBC Select: Executive Business Club (55814). Ends at 2.45

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University: Science - First of Life 7.10 Ferrara: Planning the Ideal City (5036425) Ends at 7.20
8.00 Breakfast News (183326) 8.15 Westminster (3321055)
9.00 Favourite Things. Phil Drabble talks to Roy Plomley about the things that give him most enjoyment (s) (27500)
9.30 Film: Tarzan's Hidden Jungle (1955, b/w) starring Gordon Scott and Vera Miles. Familiar. The jungle hero enlists the help of a herd of elephants to help to thwart an attempt by poachers to collect animal skins and ivory to be sold on the black market. Directed by Harold Schuster (3013968)
10.40 Made by Man. The skill of Dutch craftsmen restoring old film (705825)
10.55 Golf. Steve Rider introduces live coverage of the first round of the 121st Open on Muirfield (s) (78941061)
1.20 Bertha. Children's animated series (s) (2329287)
1.35 Golf. Further first round coverage of the Open from Muirfield (s) (231158). Includes news and weather at 2.00, 3.00 and 3.50
2.00 Business Matters: Making the Best of Things. David Muir reports from the Philippines on how Elena Lim has become one of the world's most successful businesswomen (177)



Firing: John Fashanu investigates a lame cure (8.00pm)

- 8.00 On the Line. Investigative sports programme introduced by John Fashanu. This week's subjects include the controversial method of curing lame racehorses that has been banned in this country by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons but is legal in the Irish Republic, where trainers now send their lame charges (9429)
8.30 Wildlife Showcase: The Beach Boys. An Italian-made film focusing on violent clashes between sea lions based on the Patagonian beaches. (Ceefax) (12614)
9.00 The Travel Show. Paddy Hackett investigates Weymouth's challenge to the Costa and Carol Smillie samples Salou on Spain's Costa Dorada (8158)
9.30 Pandora's Box: A Is for Atom.
● CHOICE: It isn't only atom that A stands for in Alan Curtis's disquieting film. It's apocalypse, adventurism and abomination, too, plus anti-personnel. One thing A doesn't stand for in the film is ambiguity. Surveying the history of nuclear science from the early research in the Los Alamos laboratory to the disaster at Chernobyl, it indicts the perpetrators of self-deception and fatal compromise. Curtis sets the nightmare realities against predictions that would be laughable if the context was not the survival of the human race. With atomic power, mankind comes nearer to its dream of a new and better earth, says Eisenhower inaugurating America's first atomic power plant. And a young lad prepares to crack a giant peanut grown, now seeds radiated in an atomic reactor... (22603) 10.30 Newsnight with Francine Stock (702055)
11.15 Golf. Highlights of the first round of the Open from Muirfield (s) (578790) 11.55 Weather (657516)
12.00 Weekend Outlook. A preview of the Open University's weekend programmes (3132678) 12.05am Open University: Technology - The Tonga People of the Zambesi Valley (1021765)
12.30 Film: Winter Kills (1979) starring Jeff Bridges, Anthony Perkins, Elizabeth Taylor and John Huston. Black comedy about the younger brother of an assassinated president of the United States who investigates the killing and uncovers all manner of skeletons in the cupboard. Directed by William Richert. (Ceefax) (83814)
2.00 The Road to the White House. Live coverage of the Democratic convention in New York (20521543). Ends at 4.05

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The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video Plus Codes. These numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ remote control, can be used with most video recorders. For more details, call 0800 933 1224 (calls charged at 4p per minute peak, 3p off-peak) or visit the VideoPlus+ website at www.videoplus.co.uk. VideoPlus+ is a registered trademark of VideoPlus Ltd.

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (3694603)
9.25 Your Number Please. Phone-in quiz game show with cash prizes hosted by Neil Buchanan (s) (1313551) 9.35 Thames News (6376784)
10.00 Out of this World. American comedy series about a teenage girl who inherits her alien father's supernatural powers (s) (6459061)
10.25 Newsweek. Animation (6459448) 10.55 ITN News headlines (2737852)
11.00 OX Tales. Two animated tales of Olie the Ox (2827429) 11.25 Just for the Record. Feats of endurance from around the world (s) (956687) 11.50 Thames News (5554974) 11.55 Cartoon Time (645428) 12.10 The Riddlers. Children's puppet series (3564142)
12.30 Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Rusler. (Oracle) Weather (3837448) 1.05 Thames News (2311968)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama series. (Oracle) (671081) 1.45 A.S. Medical drama series set in an Australian outback town (s) (570332)
2.15 The Green Life Guide. The last programme of the series includes a report on milk bottle recycling (499413) 2.45 Take the High Road. Drama series set in the Highlands (4811622)
3.10 ITN News headlines (4043555) 3.15 Thames News headlines (4042860) 3.20 The Young Doctors. Drama serial set in a large Australian city hospital (7356142)
3.50 Cartoon Time (6191993) 3.55 Huxley Play. Animation (s) (1006055) 4.05 T-Bag and the Pearls of Wisdom. Children's drama series starring Georgina Hale (s) (6037784) 4.30 Rolf's Counterspell (s) (6714) 5.00 Cartoon Time (654398)
5.10 Who's the Boss? American comedy series (8815662)
5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (436055)
5.55 Thames Help (s) (173142)
6.00 Home and Away (s). (Oracle) (239)
6.30 Thames News. (Oracle) (719)
7.00 Emmerdale. Drama serial set in the Yorkshire Dales. (Oracle) (9185)
7.30 Jimmy's. More real-life drama concerning the patients and staff of St James's University Hospital, Leeds (603)
8.00 The Bill: A Scandalous Act. PC Garfield is accused of sexual assault by a teenage girl he arrested at a drugs party. (Oracle) (3055)

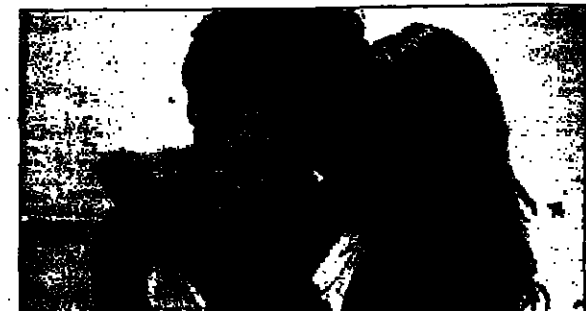


Crimes and misdemeanours: Roger Cook reports (8.30pm)

- 8.30 The Cook Report Update. Roger Cook follows up stories from his last series (8790)
9.00 LA Law. Glossy American courtroom drama series. (Oracle) (s) (2245)
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather (15719) 10.30 Thames News (461351)
10.40 01. Includes Julian Jarvis reviewing the film My Cousin Vinny and a preview feature on Shades, the new play by Sharran Macdonald opening at the Albany Theatre, including interviews with the star Pauline Collins, Macdonald and the director, Simon Callow (153245)
11.15 Prisoner: Cell Block H. Women behind bars drama series (237362)
12.00am Science Fiction: Hair Soup. The facts behind a far-fetched scientific story (1005727)
12.40 Duels of the Mind. Raymond Keene, grandmaster and chess correspondent of The Times, examines the game played in 1892 in Havana between Steinitz and Tigranov (9882123)
1.10 Film: Cross Shot (1976) starring John Saxon and Lee J. Cobb. Thriller about a petty criminal who, after killing a policeman, finds himself on the run from not only the law but the press and Mafia as well. Directed by Stephen Massey (883765)
3.00 Hardball. American police drama series (s) (82535)
4.00 New Seasons. Rainwater County in concert (s) (59272)
4.30 America's Top Ten (s) (50340)
5.00 Videofashion (s) (37501)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nelson (82388). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (3692245)
9.25 Little Rosey. Animated series (s) (1224431)
9.50 The Henderson Kids. Australian family drama series (s) (6886041)
10.20 Star Trek: The Next Generation. Science fiction series (s) (6468719)
10.50 Newsweek. More energetic telepresence from the Briton Academy (s) (s) (6764790)
11.30 The Other Side of the Moon. Animation from Russia (5715577)
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Anne Perkins (13072)
12.30 Don't Quote Me. Comedy series hosted by Geoffrey Perkins (s) (49210)
1.00 Sesame Street. Entertaining pre-school learning series (s) (49210)
2.00 Check Out 82. A repeat of last night's programme investigating a scheme under which it appears that landowners and farmers receive money for nothing (s) (7061)
2.30 Film: The Long Voyage Home (1940, b/w).
● CHOICE: Half a century ago, when John Ford made his movie about a rusted old freighter carrying a cargo of munitions across an Atlantic menaced by German submarines, it was the kiss of death to talk about poetic realism in the cinema. Nonetheless, it is what Ford's film is best remembered for, and probably why it failed to please the public. It is an amalgam of four plays by Eugene O'Neill, though the screenplay was Dudley Nichols', not O'Neill's. Well, though, the screenplay was Dudley Nichols', not O'Neill's. Had it been O'Neill's, it might have made the headlines happier still, but it would certainly have kept even more filmmakers away from the box-office, even though the main attraction of The Long Voyage Home was John Wayne, who only intermittently graces us as that He is a man with Swedish blood in his veins (56622)
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley with another round of the words and numbers game (s) (516)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guests are warring ex-spouses (s) (5765577)
5.50 Laurel and Hardy. Cartoon (269993)
6.00 My Two Dads. American comedy about two bachelors who "inherit" a teenaged girl. (Teletext) (s) (581)
6.30 Tour de France. On a rest day, a review of the race at the half-way stage (531)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Dermot Murnaghan and Zainab Badawi in London and Jon Snow at the Democratic convention in New York. (Teletext) Weather (563245)
7.50 Comment. Rabia Gurney explains why some women are driven to killing their husbands (795582)
8.00 Battler. A survival documentary examining the lifestyle of a rattlesnake by implanting a transmitter in its body (1697)
8.30 The Crystal Maze. Adventure game show (s) (52635)
9.30 True Stories: Doing Time - Life Inside the Big House.
● CHOICE: Maximum security accounts a whole new meaning to Lewisburg federal penitentiary in Pennsylvania. Hand-made knives are "defensive" weaponry, and so are the magazines that are tightly rolled up to make improvised guns that actually fire missiles. The staff give a passable imitation of a police anti-riot squad, in helmets and armour. "If you have a confrontation," says one officer who looks as if a bulldozer would come off second best in an encounter with him, "either you incapacitate them or end an encounter with him." In Alan and Susan Raymond's film, which was nominated for an Oscar, nobody indicates whether anybody has ever escaped from Lewisburg. It seems as unlikely a happening as touts selling tickets for a Buckingham Palace garden party. (Teletext) (5226784)
10.35 The Black Bag: Red Lights. Two Amsterdam pimps talk about their adventures in the skin trade (861061)



Spanish lovers: Jorge Sanz and Victoria Abril (11.05pm)

- 11.05 The Riders of the Dawn. The first of a five-part drama set in a Spanish spa town at the time of the civil war (s) (605264)
12.00am Rock in Rio. With Joe Cocker, Jimmy Cliff and George Michael (s) (6840098)
1.10 Film: Sundown (1941, b/w) starring George Sanders and Bruce Cabot. Incident-packed second world war drama about a British officer trying to stop Nazi gun-runners from inciting an uprising in Kenya. Directed by Henry Hathaway (168663). Ends at 2.45

SATellite

- SKY ONE
● Via the Astra and Marcomp satellites
6.00am The C1 (s) Show (9246006) 6.40 Mr. Peppercorn (s) (121993) 8.55 Playday (760055) 9.10 Cartoons (181158) 9.30 The American Game (s) (5351) 9.50 Morning America (96488) 1.30 Good Morning America (97177) 2.30 Parliament Live (3191652) 3.15 Parliament Live (3191652) 4.30 Parliament Live (3191652) 5.10 The Young and the Rubies (5568) 12.00 51 Everywhere (74974) 1.00am E Street (99241) 1.30 Gerardo (95535) 2.30 Another World (3195210) 3.15 The Brady Bunch (422333) 3.45 The D.I. (s) (19971) 4.00 The D.I. (s) (19971) 4.30 The D.I. (s) (19971) 4.55 3.15 Different Stories (12710) 6.00 Love at First Sight (5551) 6.30 E Street (9653) 7.00 All the Comfort (25811) 7.30 London Camera (2971) 8.00 Full House (1423) 8.30 Murphy Brown (3264) 9.00 Chances (1423) 10.00 Stars (4425) 10.30 Huron: The Average Actor (68239) 11.30 Fashion TV (11210) 12.00 Skyart

SKY NEWS

- Via the Astra and Marcomp satellites
6.00am Sunrise (6956210) 8.30 Nightline (82953) 10.00 Defence (38868) 10.30 Beyond 2000 (853321) 11.30 Japan Business Today (527010) 11.45 International Business Report (477258) 12.30am Good Morning America (96488) 1.30 Good Morning America (97177) 2.30 Parliament Live (3191652) 3.15 Parliament Live (3191652) 4.30 Parliament Live (3191652) 5.10 The Young and the Rubies (5568) 12.00 51 Everywhere (74974) 1.00am E Street (99241) 1.30 Gerardo (95535) 2.30 Another World (3195210) 3.15 The Brady Bunch (422333) 3.45 The D.I. (s) (19971) 4.00 The D.I. (s) (19971) 4.30 The D.I. (s) (19971) 4.55 3.15 Different Stories (12710) 6.00 Love at First Sight (5551) 6.30 E Street (9653) 7.00 All the Comfort (25811) 7.30 London Camera (2971) 8.00 Full House (1423) 8.30 Murphy Brown (3264) 9.00 Chances (1423) 10.00 Stars (4425) 10.30 Huron: The Average Actor (68239) 11.30 Fashion TV (11210) 12.00 Skyart

SKY MOVIES+

- Via the Astra and Marcomp satellites
6.00am Showcase (3525177)

SKY SPORTS

- Via the Astra and Marcomp satellites
6.00am Morning Stretch (42874) 7.00 Superstars (97158) 8.00 Waterpolo (50767) 9.00 Football: The Football Show (53245) 10.30 American Sports (34622) 11.30 Morning America (96488) 12.30am Good Morning America (97177) 2.30 Parliament Live (3191652) 3.15 Parliament Live (3191652) 4.30 Parliament Live (3191652) 5.10 The Young and the Rubies (5568) 12.00 51 Everywhere (74974) 1.00am E Street (99241) 1.30 Gerardo (95535) 2.30 Another World (3195210) 3.15 The Brady Bunch (422333) 3.45 The D.I. (s) (19971) 4.00 The D.I. (s) (19971) 4.30 The D.I. (s) (19971) 4.55 3.15 Different Stories (12710) 6.00 Love at First Sight (5551) 6.30 E Street (9653) 7.00 All the Comfort (25811) 7.30 London Camera (2971) 8.00 Full House (1423) 8.30 Murphy Brown (3264) 9.00 Chances (1423) 10.00 Stars (4425) 10.30 Huron: The Average Actor (68239) 11.30 Fashion TV (11210) 12.00 Skyart

EUROSPORT

- Via the Astra satellite
8.00am Cycling Tour de France (96177) 8.30am European Magazine (74488) 9.00 Tennis: Federation Cup (68371) 10.00 Grand Prix Magazine (88531) 11.00am Tennis: Mercedes Cup (833886) 5.00 Tennis: Rungby (745) 5.30am Mountain Race: World Cup (4210) 6.00am Tennis: World Sport (2588) 7.00am Tennis: Mercedes Cup (97326) 8.00 Tennis: Federation Cup (68371) 9.00 Tennis: Rungby (745) 9.30am Mountain Race: World Cup (4210) 10.00am Tennis: World Sport (2588) 11.30am Tennis: Mercedes Cup (97326) 12.00am Tennis: Federation Cup (68371) 1.00am Tennis: Rungby (745) 1.30am Mountain Race: World Cup (4210) 2.00am Tennis: World Sport (2588) 3.00am Tennis: Mercedes Cup (97326) 4.00am Tennis: Federation Cup (68371) 5.00am Tennis: Rungby (745) 5.30am Mountain Race: World Cup (4210) 6.00am Tennis: World Sport (2588) 7.00am Tennis: Mercedes Cup (97326) 8.00 Tennis: Federation Cup (68371) 9.00 Tennis: Rungby (745) 9.30am Mountain Race: World Cup (4210) 10.00am Tennis: World Sport (2588) 11.30am Tennis: Mercedes 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